

Hafa Adai!

MVA welcomes new, returning members for FY 2025. **PAGE 2**  
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**FROM 2014 TO 2023**

## 60 cases of suicide deaths in CNMI



RACQUEL FLOYD

The Light Up the Night event was a walk to raise awareness on suicide prevention and substance use recovery, and it's a collaboration of various government agencies including recovery programs, government agencies, and schools.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD  
raxfloyd@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI recorded 60 cases of suicide deaths during a 10-year period from 2014 to 2023, according to the Community Guidance Center's Suicide Prevention Program.

Suicide Prevention Program mental health counselor Sharina Clark said among the 60 suicide deaths in that span majority were males, while majority of suicide attempts were women. She added that depression stemming from relationship issues is a major cause of suicide and suicide attempts.

Clark, in an interview during the CGC's 4th Annual Light Up the Night event last Friday night, went on to enumerate the list of signs of suicidal behaviors that include extreme sadness, dissociation, and withdrawal from social activities.

"Typically, they show signs of extreme sadness, and dissociation, they don't want to talk to their friends and families. Sometimes they start giving away their belongings, especially if they're intent and they have the plan to die, they will start giving away their things, start writing suicide notes saying goodbye to their friends and their families, but one of the biggest things though that is easy for us to notice is the withdrawal that someone who's usually social will not be as social, someone who is usually like the life of the party will no longer be life of the party," said Clark.

See SUICIDE on Page 4

### Palacios addresses White House first convening on NHPI issues



OFFICE OF THE CNMI GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios addresses the inaugural White House Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Convening that brought together key NHPI leaders, private sector leaders, federal and state elected officials, federal appointees and staff last Friday, Sept. 6.

WASHINGTON, DC—Gov. Arnold I. Palacios recently spoke at the Inaugural White House Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Convening that brought together key

NHPI leaders, private sector leaders, federal and state elected officials, federal appointees and staff.

The governor's remarks at See PALACIOS on Page 4

### 'One of the bravest things to do is reach for help'



CHRYSTAL MARINO

From left, Community Guidance Center mental health counselor Sharina Clark, inspirational speaker Manny Camacho Jr., proclamation reader Mike Evangelista, Substance Use and Suicide Awareness Committee vice chair Jawn Joyner, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muna; CHCC COO Halina Palacios, CHCC board member Mariah Barcinas, and CGC administrator for Addition Service Unit Joe Kevin Villagomez pose for a photo last Wednesday at the Kensington Hotel in San Roque.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO  
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CORRESPONDENT

"We are worth it. We are worthy and we deserve to be here," survivor Sharina Clark shared to an audience of community members,

healthcare providers, and local leaders at the Kensington Hotel's Kensington Hall in San Roque last Wednesday.

Clark was one of the inspirational speakers at the official launch of the Blue Ribbon Initiative during which she

shared her survivor's journey through constant abuse as a child through to her adult years, her battles with depression, self-harming, and her attempted suicide.

She shared that one of the See HELP on Page 4

### Kilili files bill that will help small businesses

» NMC to receive \$9.19M to help individuals with disabilities  
» Saipan Municipality gets \$3.1M to cut power cost



By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
delatorreferdie@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) has introduced a See KILILI on Page 4

### INSIDE



#### LOCAL

Employees of the Department of Finance completed the Introduction to Governmental Accounting and Reporting training last month.

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#### LOCAL

On July 26, 2024 the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library hosted its very first Sound Bath Healing Session with Asia Camacho Hilario during our Sensory Night Program.

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#### LIFE & STYLE

Sergio Mendes, the celebrated Brazilian musician whose 1966 hit "Mas Que Nada" made him a global superstar and helped launched a long, Grammy-winning career, has died after months battling the effects of long COVID. He was 83.

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# Local

## MVA welcomes new, returning members for fiscal year 2025

The Marianas Visitors Authority welcomes new and returning members for the new fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2025.

Businesses, organizations, and individuals are welcomed to join the state tourism agency for \$100/year. Accounts can be registered and paid on MVA's English website at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com), or you may visit the MVA office located at 3366 Beach Rd., Suite 101, I Lian, Saipan, MP.

"MVA members are an invaluable part of the work of our office, first and foremost in promoting the Marianas and our attractions, as well as supporting our annual signature events, supporting our destination enhancement work, and more," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Membership is one of the best ways to support and to stay current with the Marianas tourism industry. Businesses, individuals, non-profit organizations... we welcome all partners."

Benefits of membership include: business listing on the MVA's language-specific websites in Korean, Japanese, and English; opportunities to participate in travel and trade shows, sales seminars, and FAM tours; opportunities for business brochure distribution at MVA offices in the Marianas, Korea, and Japan; detailed visitor data through monthly statistics reports; nomination and voting rights for the MVA board of directors; the opportunity to be a supplier or contractor for the MVA; and the opportunity to serve on ad hoc committees such as Korea Ad Hoc, Japan Ad Hoc, and Destination Enhancement Ad Hoc. The MVA also holds bi-annual membership meetings.

MVA currently has 208 members. For more information, visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com) or contact Community Projects coordinator Jack Aranda at the MVA Membership Division at (670) 664-3210 or email [communityprojects@mymarianas.com](mailto:communityprojects@mymarianas.com). (PR)

# Small business owner?

## A new filing requirement might apply to your company.

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# MANGO attends ANA Grantee Convening in DC

The Administration for Native Americans successfully hosted its Annual Grantee Convening from Aug. 27 to 29, welcoming hundreds of grantees from across the country to Washington, D.C.

Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations' Franco Santos and Shawna Babauta were in attendance to share ideas and network all while showcasing the great work MANGO has contributed to the CNMI community. The event provided a vital platform for Native-led organizations to collaborate, share knowledge, and enhance the impact of their programs serving indigenous communities.

The convening, held at Crystal Gateway Marriot, brought together representatives from tribal governments, Native nonprofits, and other ANA-supported organizations to celebrate milestones, discuss challenges, and strategize for future success. Attendees included a diverse range of grantees working on initiatives in areas such as lan-

guage preservation, economic development, environmental sustainability, and cultural revitalization.

Throughout the multi-day event, participants engaged in a variety of interactive workshops, panel discussions, and presentations led by thought leaders and experts in Native affairs. Key topics included funding strategies, capacity building, sustainability practices, and innovative approaches to tackling social and economic challenges facing Native communities today.

Patrice Kunes, commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, proudly announced that ANA has reached a significant milestone: 50 years of investment in Indian Country. "Established in 1974 through the Native American Programs Act, ANA has spent five decades championing self-determination for Native communities," Kunes shared. "This year, we are celebrating our journey of empowering tribal

governments, fostering economic growth, healing Native communities, and revitalizing Native languages. Our theme, Our Nations, Our Journey, captures ANA's enduring legacy and impact, and we are excited to continue this journey together."

As part of the celebration, the convening featured reflections from former commissioners, tribal self-determination advocates, and Native thought leaders who have profoundly influenced federal policy and advanced the well-being of Native peoples. Attendees also engaged with special feature stories highlighting ANA's origins, scope, evolution, and transformational role in Native communities over the last 50 years.

Although the formal 50th anniversary celebration took place during the conference, ANA invites everyone to continue the celebration by following its social media channels, subscribing to the ANA newsletter, and visiting the official webpage for ongoing updates.

Kunes concluded, "We owe so much to our Native Community Partners, whose work has been essential in helping their economies thrive and families flourish. As we look forward to the next 50 years, we extend our heartfelt 'wopila tanka'—thank you. We look forward to continuing this journey together."

One of the highlights of the convening was a grantee showcase, where participants presented their projects and shared success stories. The event also facilitated networking opportunities, encouraging collaboration among grantees working on similar issues.

For more information about the Administration for Native Americans and its programs, please visit <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ana/anass-50th-anniversary>.

**About ANA**

The Administration for Native Americans is a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that promotes the social and economic well-being of Native Americans, including federally recognized tribes, American Indian and Alaska Native organizations, Native Hawaiian organizations, and Pacific Islander communities. ANA provides grants, training, and technical assistance to support Native-led initiatives that promote self-sufficiency and cultural preservation.

**About MANGO**

MANGO is a coalition dedi-

cated to the advocacy and advancement of community-driven initiatives in the Marianas. MANGO focuses on environmental sustainability, social justice, and economic development, working collaboratively with various stakeholders to achieve these goals.

For media inquiries, contact Shawna Babauta, Communications & Membership manager, (670) 233-6200, [sbabautamangocnmi.org](mailto:sbabautamangocnmi.org). (PR)


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**ISLA KAGMAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS**  
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**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Position Title:** Chief Executive Officer  
**Salary Range:** Up to the Max Allowable by the HRSA Federal Mandate  
**Note:** The salary will be based on the qualifications of the applicant

**Opening Date:** August 16, 2024  
**Closing Date:** September 15, 2024  
**Location:** 6690 Kagman Road

*("This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number 22H80CS31624 for Health Center Program. This information, or content and conclusions, are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.")*

**Position Summary:** We are seeking an exceptional leader to join our team as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This pivotal role involves steering the organization towards its strategic vision, ensuring operational excellence, and maintaining financial health. The CEO will oversee a robust team, manage substantial federal funds, and uphold compliance with all regulatory standards. Regular travel to the US and neighboring islands is required.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Develop and implement the organization's strategic goals in partnership with the Board of Directors. Foster a culture of excellence and community engagement.
- Ensure efficient daily operations, compliance with HRSA guidelines, and adherence to federal, and local CNMI regulations.
- Oversee a \$3 million budget, manage program income, and ensure compliance with funding requirements. Pursue additional funding opportunities and maintain financial transparency.
- Collaborate with the CMO to ensure high-quality medical services. Promote patient-centered care and best practices.
- Ensure compliance with laws and regulations, manage risks & oversee internal/external audits for the 340B Drug Program.
- Lead recruitment, development, and retention of a workforce. Foster and inclusive and positive work environment.
- Serve as the primary liaison to the Board of Directors, providing regular updates and supporting governance functions.
- Engage with regional partners & stakeholders, participate in industry conferences, and represent KCHC in the community.

**Qualification Requirements:**


- Education:** Master's degree in Healthcare Administration, Business Administration, Public Health, or a related field.
- Experience:** Minimum of 10 years of progressive leadership experience in healthcare management with at least 5 years in an executive role within an FQHC or similar organization.
- Skills:** Exceptional leadership, strategic planning, and financial management abilities. Strong understanding of healthcare regulations and compliance. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Requirements:** Commitment to the Kagman Isla FQHC's conflict of interest policy. (**Note: Immediate relatives of current employees or board members will not be considered for this position.**)

**Benefits Package:**

- Competitive Salary:** Depending on qualifications, up to the Max Allowable by the HRSA Federal Mandate.
- Retirement:** 401(k) plan with company matching.
- Healthcare:** Medical, Dental & Vision
- Paid Time-Off:** 4 Weeks Paid Time-Off Annually

**How to Apply:** Applicants must apply in person at Kagman Community Health Center, 6690, Kagman Road  
**Note:** Full Detailed Job Description Available Upon Request.

P.O. BOX 5723 CHRB, SAIPAN MP 96950 – 6690 KAGMAN ROAD, KAGMAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING, KAGMAN III  
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**COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION**  
Office of the Executive Director

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
**CUC-IFB-24-021**

**AFETNAS WATERLINE REPLACEMENT and AFETNAS SEWERLINE COLLECTION UPGRADE PH I**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Afetnas Waterline Replacement and Afetnas Sewerline Collection Upgrade in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The **Afetnas Waterline Replacement project** consists of replacing existing water mains on Afetna Road, Buninas Loop, Chalak Lane, Pios Drive, Uahu Lane, Toson Drive, Sata Drive, and Doddo Way. New water pipelines, saddles, corporation & curb stops, and relocation & reconnection to the existing water meters will be installed and done to accomplish the work. The work will include shallow excavations, rock-breaking, installing new flush & fire hydrants, pressure & air relief valves, connecting new service laterals, asphalt pavement restoration, installing flowable fill, and other appurtenances for a complete and functional water system.

The **Afetnas Sewerline Collection Upgrade Ph I project** consists of furnishing all labor, supervision, equipment, and materials for the construction of various improvements within an area. This work includes, but is not limited to installation of new gravity main and new sewer manholes, service laterals, connection of new service laterals to existing service laterals, abandonment of existing sewer manholes, and restoration of existing asphalt concrete road.

The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water and sewer systems. CUC requires the Projects to be completed in **540 calendar days** from the date of the award of the contract.

These projects are funded by grants from the United States American Rescue Plan Act (US ARPA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). The award of these projects is contingent upon receipt of approval for project awards from US ARPA and US EPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 12, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must** be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-24-021, Afetnas Waterline Replacement and Afetnas Sewerline Collection Upgrade Ph I"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 7, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time and post-marked before the due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety companies must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns, and qualifications shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contract nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility for any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to a lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 16, 2024**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org), with a copy to Kennet Bernardo, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email [kennet.bernardo@cucgov.org](mailto:kennet.bernardo@cucgov.org), and to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician at [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



HELP

From page 1

hardest things was to ask for help, especially since she worked as a health-care provider, but added that she soon realized the benefit of it.

“Therapy has helped me. Talking about my experiences has helped me. Continuing my education, understanding brain function and trauma has helped me. Amazing people in my life who show up for me on the daily basis when I feel like I don’t deserve it have helped me. I am still on my healing journey but there is no doubt in my

mind, that healing is possible. Today at 39 years of age I can finally say that I’m proud of myself. Life has been more than hard but I have worked hard to be a good mother to my eight children, to keep them safe loved and protected. I have worked hard to get two master’s degrees and this fall I am a Ph.D candidate,” she shared as the room erupted in applause.

“I work hard at my job every day to help people who are struggling the way I have struggled...I now choose it’s hard. I know and acknowledge my worth. I am not ashamed of my experiences... to those in this room who are struggling with lots of

[thoughts of] suicide, depression, and anxiety, I hope you know that help is available,” she added.

During the ceremony, acting governor David M. Apatang joined Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña and Community Guidance Center Addiction Service Unit administrator Joe Kevin Villagomez and their staff to officially designate September 2024 as National Recovery Month and National Suicide Prevention Month in the CNMI. The designation includes the Commonwealth in the national commemoration, underscoring the islands’ ongoing commitment to mental health awareness and acces-

sible support services.

After the proclamation signing, Apatang emphasized the importance of the initiative and community awareness of suicide prevention.

“Throughout my experience in life I’ve been through this issue as a veteran serving combat for two years in Vietnam. I went through a lot of these issues,” said Apatang. “PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) also, and I didn’t just sit and wait. I went and sought help.”

He shared that he was referred to a medical center in Hawaii where he spent a month going through counseling and therapy. He shared that what he learned he still puts into practice today.

“That’s what I’ve been doing and I’m here 76 years old now. And I’m still recovering and I know how to prevent that, so please if you know somebody that’s experiencing PTSD especially my fellow veterans... [really] anybody can experience PTSD whether you were out on the road and got into an accident and traumatic issues and all that, you can get PTSD, it not only happens to veterans who served in the military. So, it’s important for you to seek help.”

Apatang added, “We have a lot of professionals here to help us out. Take a look at your family and don’t be afraid to refer anybody for help.

That’s very important.”

The Blue Ribbon Initiative is an ambitious effort aimed at tackling the growing mental health challenges faced in the community, and at the forefront of the Blue Ribbon Initiative is the Community Guidance Center, offering vital intervention services and crisis counseling to anyone dealing with behavioral health concerns or mental distress.

When speaking with Villagomez, he shared, “every quarter we have the Blue Ribbon Consortium meeting that brings in all the stakeholders and we train and educate them on different ways of addressing behavioral health which includes mental health and substance misuse disorders. This is very important for us this year because mainly we’re focused on fentanyl. Fentanyl is an opioid that is deadly even in a minute amount so we brought in a consultant who is going to be doing the presentation this afternoon to educate us because nearby in Guam there are already seeing people dying from fentanyl.”

While Villagomez hopes fentanyl hasn’t reached the CNMI’s shores yet, he said the reality is the illegal drug will get here eventually.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

SUICIDE

From page 1

Clark emphasized that seeking help for mental health is not shameful and should be prioritized.

“They should know that there is help available, that there’s no shame in seeking help to not give into the stigmatization that seeking help is wrong or embarrassing. There is nothing to be ashamed of when it comes to highlighting and wanting to keep safe or yourself safe, promoting your own mental behavioral health, it’s just as important as physical health.”

Mental struggles are as debilitating as physical struggles, she added.

“I think something that people don’t recognize is that the struggles we go through mentally are just debilitating as the struggles we go through physically, so we should always know that help is there,” Clark said.

Meanwhile, more than 400 joined the aforementioned 4th Annual Light Up the Night event last Friday night

at the Garapan Fishing Base.

The Light Up the Night event was a walk to raise awareness on suicide prevention and substance use recovery, and it’s a collaboration of various government agencies including recovery programs, government agencies, and schools.

The march started at 6:45pm with JROTCs from Kagman High School, Marianas High School, and Southern High School taking the lead in marching from Garapan Fishing Base to the 13th Fishermen Monument along with staff from the CGC, Substance Abuse Recovery Program, Division of Youth Services, PSS Mental Health, and NMI Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

This year marks the sixth year of the National Recovery Awareness Commemoration and fourth year for the CGC. It was last year when they decided to merge since they both observed suicide prevention and substance use recovery in the same month which is September.

The People in Recovery Outreach Program conducted a road-waving

activity starting at 4:30pm, according to Jawn Joyner, Substance Use and Suicide Awareness Committee vice chair.

“We have the road waving, and we have a different booth set up for community education like mental health and where you can seek help,” she said.

CGC program manager Ana Ada said the event includes a prayer walk and remembrance for those affected by suicide.

“I’m expecting everybody to at least say a prayer walk and remember people who have died by suicide or who are still actually alive, but suffering from very distressed because of suicidal thoughts and hopefully we’re trying to encourage a zero-suicide community, where the year goes by and we don’t have a suicide death, that’s our hope,” said Ada.

For more information or if anyone needs help dealing with the issue, the Suicide Prevention Program can be reached at (670) 664-5483, and for immediate assistance, they can call 988 to speak with a trained counselor.

KILILI

From page 1

bill proposes to incentivize prime contractors of the U.S. Department of Defense that will work with small businesses in the Marianas.

Sablan also disclosed in his *e-kilili* newsletter over the weekend that the Northern Marianas College has successfully competed to receive \$9.19 million to help individuals with disabilities join the workforce, while Saipan Mayor Ramon Blas “RB” Camacho and his team at the Saipan Mayor’s Office have successfully competed for \$3.12 million to cut spending on electricity.

Sablan’s legislation, HR 9453, or the Pacific Defense Small Business Incentive Act, seeks to amend Title 10, United States Code, to require payments to contractors for subcontracting with Pacific Insular Area concerns.

The delegate said if the bill that he introduced this week will be enacted, it authorizes additional payment to DOD prime contractors who subcontract to a small business in the Marianas, Guam, or American Samoa.

Sablan said providing access to defense contracts is critical, with continued military projects in areas like the Marianas further warranting local business participation.

“Elevating our Pacific small businesses in the defense industrial base will spur local economic growth and streamline federal projects and initiatives on our islands,” he said.

The legislation was referred to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services. Delegate Uifa’atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) cosponsored the bill.

Regarding federal assistance to NMC, Sablan said his office was informed on Friday that the \$9,197,150 grant is the first of an anticipated five years of this funding for the college.

He said with the new federal money NMC plans to “address challenges facing those with disabilities, including lack of access to advanced technology, low levels of educational attainment, behavioral health issues, criminal justice involvement, low financial literacy, lack of pre-employment skills, lack of job skills and work experience, lack of peer support, and lack of job development and placement services.”

Sablan said the project will be coordinated with the Commonwealth’s Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Council on Developmental Disabilities, Center for Living Independently, Northern Marianas Technical Institute, and the Interwork Institute at San Diego State University Research Foundation.

The U.S. Congress provided the

money for the Disability Innovation Fund Program in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, (Public Law 117-328).

Sablan congratulated NMC project coordinator Eileen Alepuyo Babauta and everyone at the college.

On money to cut power cost, the delegate said the U.S. Environmental Protection Act announced the award of \$3,122,794 to Saipan Municipality that will help homes, businesses, and government offices on the island cut spending by transitioning to energy-efficient LED lighting.

He said a 40% saving is expected at each retrofit site and this will in turn lower greenhouse gas pollution from the fossil fuel generators that currently produce most of Saipan’s electricity.

Sablan said President Joseph Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris led the way for passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, through which Congress provided this week’s funding.

“As typhoons strike more frequently and with greater force, as ocean warming kills the coral reefs and marine life we rely on, as sea level continues to rise, the need to cut CO2 and other greenhouse gasses grows more obvious and urgent,” he said.

The delegate said the Saipan grant is one of 33 out of 110 applications for the climate change funding.

PALACIOS

From page 1

the White House NHPI Convening were part of his visit to the nation’s capital which also included separate meetings with Kurt M. Campbell, United States deputy secretary of State, senior officials at the U.S. Department of Interior, and other federal partners. He also met with U.S. Trade representative Katherine Tai, a cabinet-level administration official who leads the country’s trade discussions with other nations.

He addressed the Convening immediately after U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland gave opening remarks. After delivering his remarks, U.S. FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell also gave remarks.

In his remarks, Palacios expressed his deepest appreciation to Haaland and the Biden-Harris administration for the high-level engagements they have had and the strategic partnerships that the administration has continued to cultivate with island communities.

“From improving infrastructure, supporting workforce development efforts, addressing natural disasters, and increasing the number of federal personnel dedicated to working with the U.S. territories, the administration’s willingness to collaborate—across the vast Pacific and even across party lines—with island territories and nations has not gone unnoticed.”

He added that the NHPI Convening advances those ongoing efforts to raise the collective voices of islanders, “which have sometimes been diminished or drowned out by conflicting narratives, misunderstood context, or incorrect assumptions about the indigenous communities.”

Palacios said although the federal government and Pacific Island gov-

ernments have come a long way in strengthening their relationships and their lines of communication, they still have much more to accomplish.

“Along with other Pacific islands, the CNMI is on the front lines of the climate crisis. Our islands, though small in size, are disproportionately affected by global warming and climate change caused by larger countries. We face rising sea levels, stronger and more frequent typhoons, and other destructive impacts to our natural ecosystems, food security, and ways of life.”

He added that the CNMI and other Micronesian islands are also facing significant challenges in air passenger service.

“Limited competition, infrequent flights, and exorbitant ticket prices are hindering economic development, access to essential services, and overall quality of life for residents.”

Palacios concluded his remarks by saying, “The tyranny of distance and isolation of the islands have also led to an incredibly high cost of living by creating barriers to access affordable healthcare, employment opportunities, and basic goods and services.”

Background of White House NHPI Convening

NHPI continues to be among the most underrepresented subgroups within the AANHPI constituency and remain some of the most underserved communities in the nation. Before this convening, the White House had not hosted an NHPI-specific event.

The event aimed to achieve two goals: Recognize the cultures and achievements of NHPI communities and cement the administration’s legacy of celebrating the diversity of AANHPI communities and leaving no community—no matter how small—behind. (PR)



## ACROSS GOV'T, PRIVATE, AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS NMC president cultivates leadership skills for professionals

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce held its 3rd Quarter Professional Development as facilitated by the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute and led by NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

This training focused on strategic leadership and effective management, where participants were equipped with the essential skills for effective team management, strategic leadership, and improved managerial capabilities.

About 50 participants included representatives from various government, private, and non-profit sector companies, such as the CNMI Department of Finance, Department of Commerce, Naked Fish Bar & Grill, Island Training Solutions, Paradise Dental Spa, Assurance Brokers, Inc. (Saipan) dba AB Risk Solutions, Younis Art Studio, Inc., PIC, Micronesians Brokers (CNMI), Inc., D&Q Saipan, and NMTech.

Key topics from the training included actionable insights for team management, strategies for addressing communication challenges, managing conflicts, enhancing managerial and leadership skills, and how to apply these skills in the workplace to make positive,



Session 1 participants completed the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 3rd Quarter Professional Development as facilitated by the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute and led by NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero.



Participants of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 3rd Quarter Professional Development as facilitated by the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute completed the training during Session 2.

professional impacts.

"It was a privilege to collaborate with the Chamber and work with such an esteemed group of business leaders and public servants," said Deleon Guerrero. "I was particularly honored to help them better serve our community through a proven and research-based framework

for strategic leadership. And, we had a lot of fun."

For more information about upcoming programs and training opportunities, contact the NMC-Community Development Institute at [cdi@marianas.edu](mailto:cdi@marianas.edu) or call (670) 237-6802.

For media inquiries, email [miguel.dandan@marianas.edu](mailto:miguel.dandan@marianas.edu) 2024-09-05. (PR)



# NMPASI

**NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.**

PO Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. Nos.: (670) 235-7273/4 - Fax: (670) 235-7275

## PAIMI Advisory Council Vacancy Announcement

CNMI residents are invited to express their interest in serving as a PAIMI Advisory Council member for a **VOLUNTEER POSITION** for the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. (NMPASI). NMPASI is a non-profit, private corporation whose mission is to protect the human, civil, and legal rights of individuals with disabilities.

The PAIMI Advisory Council or PAC is comprised of ten (10) volunteer members who serve one-year terms which consist of four (4) fiscal years. The ideal candidate will have the strong desire to advise the Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) program on policies and priorities to be carried out in protecting and advocating for the rights of individuals with mental illness. The interested individual must be a person who receive or have received mental health services; who is knowledgeable about issues surrounding individuals with mental illness; a service provider to individuals who receive or have received mental health services; or a family member of individuals who receive or have received mental health services. The Advisory Council responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular quarterly meetings four times annually;
- Approving the purposes, overall programmatic directions and structure of the council
- Electing officers
- Approving membership requirements
- Approving the Council's By-Laws
- Preparing and submitting a report that describes the activities of itself and its assessment of the operations of the Protection & Advocacy System no later than January 1 of each year following the fiscal year
- Advising on policies and priorities of the PAIMI Program
- Reviewing and assessing the operations of the PAIMI Program
- Complying with federal mandated requirements; and
- On an annual basis, assisting in providing the public with an opportunity to comment on the priorities established by, and activities of the Program.

Interested persons shall submit a written letter addressed to NMPASI Executive Director, Gregory Borja, in person at the NMPASI office located at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe on the 5th floor in room #505 or via email at [gborja@nmpasi.org](mailto:gborja@nmpasi.org).

Deadline for submission: no later than **Monday, September 16, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

Please contact Gregory Borja at (670) 235-7273 or via email at [gborja@nmpasi.org](mailto:gborja@nmpasi.org) with any questions and/or concerns.



# NMPASI

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PO Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. Nos.: (670) 235-7273/4 - Fax: (670) 235-7275

## Board of Directors Vacancy Announcement

CNMI residents are invited to express their interest in serving as a Board member for a **VOLUNTEER POSITION** for the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. (NMPASI). NMPASI is a non-profit, private corporation whose mission is to protect the human, civil, and legal rights of individuals with disabilities.

The Board of Directors is comprised of eleven (11) volunteer members who serve four-year terms. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote NMPASI mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. The interested individual must be a person with a disability; knowledgeable about the needs of people with disabilities; a parent/guardian of a person with a disability; or an immediate relative of a person with a mentally impairing disability. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular quarterly meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for NMPASI's programs;
- developing and insuring adherence to policies and procedures that establish the purposes, overall programmatic directions and structure of the organization;
- electing officers of the board in accordance with the by-laws;
- approving new members and membership requirements;
- approving, repealing, altering and/or amending by-laws;
- reviewing, approving, amending annual budgets;
- recruiting, hiring, evaluating, and if deemed necessary, terminating and removing the Executive Director or the organization in accordance with established policies and procedures;
- reviewing and approving annual Statement of Goals and Priorities and other reports including, but not limited to regular and special meeting minutes of the Board;
- approving contracts and other instruments of a contractual nature in accordance with established policies and procedures; and
- carrying out all other duties in furtherance of the purposes in accordance with established policies and procedures

Interested persons shall submit a written letter addressed to the Board Secretary, Sherry Pangelinan, and to NMPASI Executive Director, Gregory Borja, in person at the NMPASI office located at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe on the 5th floor in room #505 or via email at [gborja@nmpasi.org](mailto:gborja@nmpasi.org).

Deadline for submission: no later than **Monday, September 16, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

Please contact Greg Borja at (670) 235-7273 or via email at [gborja@nmpasi.org](mailto:gborja@nmpasi.org) with any questions and/or concerns.



**COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION**  
Office of the Executive Director



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-24-019

### LEASE OF MIDSIZE TRUCKS AND COMPACT SEDANS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Vendors for the Lease and Delivery of Brand-New Midsize Trucks and Compact Sedans in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-RFP-24-019, Lease and Delivery of Midsize Trucks and Compact Sedans**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 24, 2024.** Late submissions and conditional RFP will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Proposer's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of the proposals under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 2, 2024**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Vicente Deleon Guerrero, Compliance Administrator via email [vicente.deleon-guerrero@cucgov.org](mailto:vicente.deleon-guerrero@cucgov.org), and to Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



# Opinion

Hafa Adair!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Death of hostages amplifies call for peace

**T**he hearts of the commonwealth and of the nation are with the family of Hersh Goldberg-Polin today. The 23-year-old former resident of Richmond was among six hostages killed recently by Hamas terrorists, his body located in a tunnel underneath the city of Rafah, in southern Gaza.

His bright light, now extinguished, reminds us all of what has been lost in the Israel-Gaza conflict as the last 11 months have seen too much destruction, too much bloodshed and too many heartbroken families devastated by loss. It lends further urgency to those calling for an end to the killing and the pursuit of a lasting peace.

The Israeli government announced Sunday that it had recovered the bodies of Goldberg-Polin and five other hostages after storming a tunnel complex during ongoing operations in Gaza. All six had been executed at close range between Thursday and Friday, according to the Israel Defense Forces.

Goldberg-Polin was among the roughly 250 people taken from southern Israel in a surprise Hamas attack on Oct. 7 that killed 1,200 people. The operation prompted a furious IDF response and full-scale invasion of Gaza, which is roughly the same size as Hampton and is home to 2 million residents.

There is no reliable estimate of how many have died in that operation. Neither side produces trustworthy casualty numbers and numerous journalists have died covering the war. But it's no stretch to say the death toll is staggering and defies comprehension.

At the heart of the conflict, though, are the men, women and children such as Goldberg-Polin, who was taken when terrorists overran a music festival in the town of Re'im. The New York Times reported in November that, prior to his abduction, he lost part of his left arm in an explosion as he and others took shelter in a bomb shelter.

Before moving to Israel, Goldberg-Palin lived with his family in the West End neighborhood of Richmond for four years, according to the Richmond Times-Dispatch. His father worked for Capital One and they attended Keneseth Beth Israel synagogue.

In short, these were ordinary people living ordinary lives in Virginia. His parents became public faces of grief and resolve as they pleaded day after day, month after month, for their son's release, including a recent speech at the Democratic National Convention.

That they will never see him again, hug him again and tell him that they love him again is a pain no parent should know. And while Hamas bears blame for what happened on Oct. 7, it is a pain known all too well on the Palestinian side as well, as IDF forces have decimated Gaza, leaving few families there untouched by the brutal violence of war.

Not that the conflict is in any way confined to that region. Goldberg-Polin was a dual Israel-U.S. citizen, and was one of eight Americans still held by Hamas nearly a year after the Oct. 7 attack. And U.S. funding for Israel's campaign has been a national flashpoint, particularly on college campuses but also in street protests and at the DNC last month.

There are undoubtedly extremist elements in those protests

See DEATH on Page 7



## Why grocery shopping is such a joy-suck

**I**n the pandemic's early years, Mary and her husband had their groceries delivered from Whole Foods every week, paying \$35 or so for each drop-off to their home in Streeterville. They're well off—both are physicians—and they had a newborn and a toddler, making in-person shopping even more of a chore.

They stopped that splurge in 2022, when food supermarket prices went up the fastest in more than 40 years. Though they probably could have afforded to continue ordering from Instacart, their food bill "hit a point where we thought this is just ridiculous," Mary said. "This was not a good use of our money."

Throughout Chicagoland and the rest of the country, consumers are recoiling from the run-up in grocery prices and increasingly looking for ways to save money in the checkout lane. Two-thirds of American adults say their standard grocery cart costs more than it did a year ago, and roughly half of consumers have changed their shopping habits to save money, according to a new Harris Poll.

Nearly three-quarters of today's budget-conscious shoppers' new routines include buying things on sale or with a coupon, according to our poll, making it the most popular cost-saving measure we tested. A similar percentage chooses lower-priced store brands over name brands. And majorities of those with new shopping habits comparison shop, buy different-sized products that are cheaper, forgo organic food and limit purchases to essential items. Almost half now shop at different stores.

The findings are remarkably similar across income levels: Among adults taking actions to lower their grocery bills, for instance, 71% in households with incomes less than \$50,000 a year say they're buying discounted products today compared with 74% with annual incomes of \$100,000 and up.

That so many people are shopping differently might seem surprising given the most recent government data, which showed the cost of food at home rose just 0.1% from June to July and was up only 1.1% from a year earlier. Inflation may have peaked at 11.4% in 2022, but because its effects linger even after price pressures abate, it remains top of mind for many Americans. After all, what had cost \$100 at the end of 2019 now costs almost \$130.

Rising grocery prices are doing more than straining the budgets of middle-class and even affluent households. The Greater Chicago Food Depository says its food banks and pantries served 28% more people last spring than they did a year earlier, a surge it attributes to inflation as well as the rollback of pandemic relief programs. As a result, the nonprofit estimates, 1 in 5 households with children in metro Chicago were food-insecure in the second quarter, a percentage last recorded in the first months of the pandemic in 2020.

There's a takeaway, too, for Mayor Brandon Johnson, whose allies in the City Council are reviewing 16 tax increases to pay

By **WILL JOHNSON**

Chicago Tribune

Will Johnson is the Chicago-based CEO of The Harris Poll, one of the world's leading public-opinion research firms.



for expanded social services. Yes, more people are in need, but it might be wise not to proceed with a sales tax on groceries—one of the options on the table—since it would disproportionately affect lower-income families for whom the cost of food consumes a larger portion of their budget.

The repeat hits to the wallet also go a long way to explain why both Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump have recently focused on food costs.

By now, Americans have had time to recalibrate most of their price expectations. Still, grocers manage to occasionally shock them, reinforcing their efforts to hold back.

Angela, a hair stylist who lives with her art-director husband and their teenage daughter near Lincoln Square, was taken aback the other day when she saw a two-pack of chicken breasts at Jewel-Osco selling for \$15. "That is crazy," she said. But because it was on a buy-one-get-one-free sale, she ended up buying the twofer.

To save more money for retirement, Angela, 50, buys in bulk for meals she plans out for three weeks ahead. She buys fresh fruit only when it's in season and cheaper. She has cut back on red meat. She gardens and cans her own vegetables. And she comparison shops online and then shuttles to four stores—Jewel, Mariano's, Aldi and Costco — to get the best deals.

Even so, she conceded, there have been times when they haven't hit their monthly savings goal. "Everything costs more today," Angela said.

Mary, 35, also finds herself becoming more frugal. While she's still loyal to Whole Foods, she's often choosing conventionally grown fruits and vegetables over premium-priced organics, buying less meat and stocking up when things are on sale. "I don't know if I'm doing it explicitly to save money each time," she said, "but I'm more judicious about what I buy."

The good news for consumers is inflation is cooling. The bad news is the job market is cooling as well, which could encourage employers to skimp on pay raises needed to catch up with rising prices. For more and more households, penny-pinching seems here to stay.



# Trump keeps talking about bacon prices, but that's not making the point he intends

**W**hen it comes to the price of bacon, Donald Trump is absolutely right: It's too damn high. What he doesn't tell you when he brings this up on the campaign trail—which is a lot—is that the sharp increase was headed our way while he was in the White House.

In 2018, 61% of California voters passed Proposition 12, which required the space for breeding pigs and their piglets to be increased to a new standard—which only 4% of pork suppliers met at the time. Essentially the industry had to choose between spending money to meet the new requirements or risking losing the nation's most populous state as a customer.

The industry challenged the constitutionality of the new law. In 2023 the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in California's favor, and the law took full effect a bit over a year ago. Two of the justices in favor were selected by Trump.

"While the Constitution addresses many weighty issues, the type of pork chops California merchants may sell is not on that list," Justice Neil M. Gorsuch wrote.

California's law is not the only factor that has made bacon more expensive. There's also Trump's initial handling of the pandemic.

On Feb. 7, 2020, after speaking with the president of China, Trump was interviewed by journalist Bob Woodward. On the recording the former president said: "It goes through air, Bob. That's always tougher than the touch. You know, the touch—you don't have to touch things, right? But the air, you just breathe the air. That's how it's passed. And so that's a very tricky one. That's a very delicate one. It's also more deadly than your—you know, your—even your strenuous flu."

Yet on Feb. 10, he told the country "a lot of people think that goes away in April."

By "that" he meant COVID-19.

On March 30, he doubled down: "Stay calm. It will go away."

He later told Woodward: "I wanted to always play it down. I still like playing it down because I don't want to create a panic."

This wishful thinking was not an effective containment strategy.

In April 2020, Tyson and Smithfield—two of the largest meat processors in the country—were forced to shut down plants because their employees were getting sick.

As late as Aug. 31 that year, Trump was still telling the country: "It's going to go away." (Update from four years later: It hasn't gone away.)

But in 2020, thousands of people were dying daily, the supply chain was at a standstill and tens of thousands of pigs were being euthanized because of the plant closures. When do you ever see big businesses just eat a loss of revenue? We know it's usually passed on to the customer, unless competition is keeping prices reasonable. When Proposition 12 passed in 2018, 70% of the market was controlled by four hog processing companies.

And so like clockwork, in January 2021 the average cost for a pound of bacon was \$5.83, and by October it was \$7.31. Consumers noticed. In trying to reach voters struggling to make ends meet, Trump has focused on the cost of bacon as the anecdote to use when attacking Biden's economic policies. He couldn't have chosen a worse example to make his case: The price of a BLT was destined to jump around now regardless of whether Trump or President Joe Biden were in office. And it was Trump's own handling of the pandemic that exacerbated the issues surrounding the cost of bacon.

In April 2020, House Democrats introduced the Price Gouging Prevention Act to try to stop corporate America from taking advantage of the pandemic to raise profits, but Trump was still telling the country "this is going to go away." The bill went nowhere, because of Republican opposition. Even though Senate Democrats—including then-Sen. Kamala Harris—sponsored a companion bill to match the House initiative.

We saw the same script with gas prices. In 2022, House Democrats passed a gas price gouging bill. Republicans in

**By LZ GRANDERSON**

Los Angeles Times

*LZ Granderson is an Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.*



the Senate wouldn't get on board to solve the problem facing consumers; they wanted to ensure that Trump could campaign by complaining about gas prices.

So much for "America first," right?

It's quite telling that Trump felt misleading voters about the pandemic was a better campaign strategy than winning voters over by leading us through it. During her acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention, Vice President Harris warned the nation that Trump is not a serious man but that reelecting him would have serious consequences. His rhetoric around the price of bacon is the perfect illustration.

In March 2020, Trump himself issued an executive order intended to prevent price gouging. Today he characterizes Harris' call for a national price gouging ban as "communist," even though 37 states—including ones that voted for him in 2016 and 2020—already have similar bans. Trump likes to complain about current-day America as if he's a fresh face with a new vision, but he does have a record we can refer to. In January 2017, bacon was \$5.18 a pound. That September, while Trump was issuing "Citizenship Day" proclamations, the price of bacon reached a then-record \$6.36, and surprisingly, he didn't fault the White House.

That's because pointing out the cost of bacon wouldn't have been a good look for him then. When you look at the facts today, they don't look good for him now either.

# Failing our students, one school shooting at a time

**I**t was every parent's nightmare—news Wednesday morning of a lockdown at Apalachee High School turned into reports of gunfire, then injuries, then deaths. As of Wednesday afternoon, four people at the Winder high school were reported dead, including students. Nine were injured, and, horrifically, the shooter was confirmed to be a 14-year-old boy. Now the rest of us are left wondering not just how this happened, but why our leaders refused to do more to keep it from happening in the first place.

The scenes outside of the high school were chaotic and heart-breaking. Dozens, maybe hundreds of emergency vehicles swarmed the scene—sheriff's deputies, EMTs, firefighters and even county game wardens responded. With traffic blocked by police more than a mile away from the school, panicked parents and grandparents simply parked their cars on the side of the road and started walking or running to reach their children instead.

The mother of a 15-year-old boy told Channel 2 Action News that her son had texted her from his classroom, "Mom, they're shooting." She told him to pray, run or hide. "That could have been my son that lost his life today," she said.

Another mother said she had already been considering home schooling her children because she feared for their safety at school. "Maybe now we will," she said.

Channel 2's Matt Johnson recounted talking to a female student who said she saw her teacher die. "I tried to save him, I tried to save him," she said.

The stories were as horrific as they were inevitable. Without more being done to prevent school shootings in Georgia and beyond, it feels like we're just waiting for the next one to happen and praying it's not where we live.

We don't truly know whether this terrible new normal for our kids is a result of the increasingly lax gun laws that our leaders keep passing or a lack of security in schools. Is it because of the rising levels of anxiety in teens or a failure to keep guns away from people having a serious mental health crisis? Is it all of those things together? Maybe. But lawmakers in the state are not looking deeper to find out.

That's especially perplexing because it often seems like there is no issue too large or too small for the Georgia General Assembly to study and debate. Since I began covering the Legislature four years ago, I've seen lawmakers debate

everything from voting laws to tax cuts; how to teach history and which statues belong on state Capitol grounds. I once sat through a hearing on whether to eliminate the rabies vaccine for pets (they kept it) and spent hours in hearings about changes to truck weights on local bridges.

If a topic is complex, or lawmakers don't know exactly what a bill or law should look like, they often create a study committee to gather more information. This year, House study committees are reviewing credit card fees and excise taxes, consumer protections in the tree safety industry, and changes to laws for navigable streams. The state Senate, for its part, has study committees taking deep dives on prison safety, preserving farmland, firearm storage (after failing to pass a bill on the topic) and caregiver services.

But since I have been covering the Legislature, there has never been a study committee to look at how to comprehensively address school shootings and, if I can make an easy prediction, at this rate there never will be.

That's because a study committee would surely tell GOP leaders something they don't want to hear—that along with the millions of dollars they already spent to upgrade security at schools and the requirements they put in place for active shooter drills for all students (including kindergartners), the only way to prevent school shootings is to also consider gun restrictions in some form or fashion.

Lawmakers have proved themselves acutely aware of other potential harms to children in schools and have been ready to act accordingly.

When conservatives feared that some white children could be made to feel sad or guilty depending on how a teacher presented a topic such as slavery, the House and Senate passed a bill that detailed which topics teachers could introduce and even specified the kinds of questions they were allowed to answer.

When a transgender college student in Pennsylvania swam in a women's swim meet, GOP lawmakers moved to ban all transgender kids from participating on Georgia school teams different from their gender at birth. Last week, a new Senate study committee held a public hearing to find out what more should be done on that issue.

But when four people were killed in a Barrow County school on Wednesday by a boy from their own community, the most

**By PATRICIA MURPHY**

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution



leaders could offer were thoughts and prayers.

Speaking for myself, I am thinking and praying deeply for the children and families affected. I am also profoundly grateful to the school resource officer who stopped the shooter and certainly prevented more carnage in the process.

But I know we would not need so many thoughts and prayers if lawmakers would take action and do more to save our students' lives, no matter the politics.

As of now, they're just failing them, one school shooting at a time.

## DEATH

From page 6

and some have used contemptible tactics, including disgusting antisemitism, to press their case. But the overwhelming number of those calling for a ceasefire are pro-peace. They want the killing to stop and for a political solution that frees the hostages and allows the people of both sides to live.






This weekend showed that Americans calling for peace are joined by countless Israeli residents themselves, who filled the streets to denounce Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after news of the hostages' deaths was released.

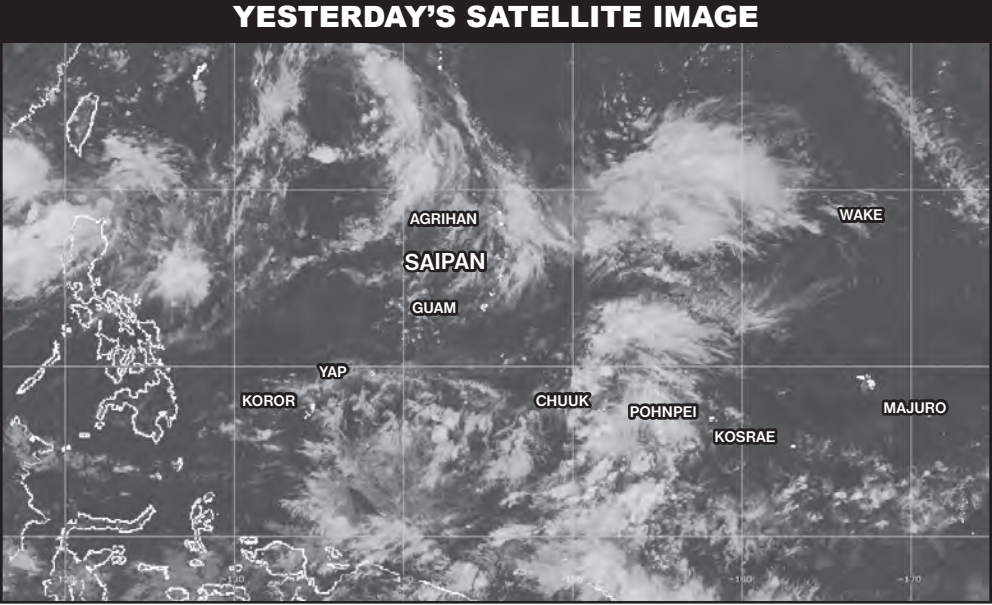
As we mourn Goldberg-Polin and celebrate his memory, we can only dream of what he could have accomplished in life had that opportunity not been cruelly taken from him. No one else should meet the same fate.

It's past time to stop the killing, to free the hostages and to find a path to peace.

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# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Cloudy with showers likely and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Cloudy with widespread locally heavy showers and a chance of thunderstorms.		Cloudy with widespread locally heavy showers and a chance of thunderstorms.		Cloudy with showers likely and a chance of thunderstorms.	
87°	79°	85°	79°	85°	79°	85°	79°	85°	79°



**PICTURE TIME: 4:52 AM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A speckling of small celled convection is shown on radar for all of the Marianas. Showers today are expected to be isolated. This will gradually increase to scattered for tonight. Showers are expected to increase as Invest 95W progresses westward. An Hydrological outlook has been issued for the Marianas in anticipation of the incoming disturbance. During this event, models suggest 4 to 8 inches of rain may fall, with some areas maybe higher amounts. Flash flooding and localized flooding of low-lying/poor drainage areas are the major concerns for the middle of the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	89° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET	
Today	6:05 AM	6:23 PM	
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM	
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM	
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM	
Friday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM	
DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:40 AM	10:09 PM	-
Tuesday	11:33 AM	10:55 PM	-
Wednesday	12:29 PM	11:47 PM	-
Thursday	1:27 PM	-	-
Friday	-	12:44 AM	2:24 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	54° / 42°	
Beijing	Fair	75° / 67°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°	
London	Rain	69° / 60°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	96° / 73°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	89° / 78°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 45°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	89° / 81°	
New York	Showers	83° / 71°	
Osaka	Showers	93° / 77°	
Paris	Light Rain	82° / 60°	
Busan	Rain/Wind	80° / 65°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	89° / 67°	
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 70°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	81° / 58°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	89° / 71°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°	
Washington, DC	Fair	74° / 63°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:17 AM	Low Tide	0.34	
11:54 AM	High Tide	1.61	
5:21 PM	Low Tide	1.15	
10:38 PM	High Tide	1.69	

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2024							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
				7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5	HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.					
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024					
SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily



# Finance employees complete governmental accounting training

Employees of the Department of Finance completed the Introduction to Governmental Accounting and Reporting training last month. With funding support from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, Graduate School USA and Pacific & Virgin Islands Training Initiatives was able to deliver the 20-hour course in person to the 56 Department of Finance

employees on Aug. 19-22, 2024. “Overall, I am were very pleased with the course, providing the background of government accounting and the roles each division and office play and how our jobs impact each other,” shared an employee from the Division of Financial Services. “The Jeopardy game was awesome; testing our knowl-

edge from the class exercises and lectures,” said a participant from the Department of Public Lands. The instructor for this four-day training was delivered by Jeanne Yamamura, who more than 30 years of experience in industry and academia. Licensed as a CPA in California and Nevada, she began as an auditor with Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. (now KPMG)

in San Francisco, California, and moved on to work as an Audit Manager for Touche Ross & Co. in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. The course provided an overview of governmental accounting systems and includes a basic introduction to accounting principles, internal controls, and documentation requirements. The training was also attended by 34 employees from the Department of Commerce,

Department of Labor, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Public Lands, Public School System, Office of the Lt. Governor, Office of the Public Auditor, Office of Management and Budget & Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Public Assistance Office, Criminal Justice Planning Agency, Commonwealth Medicaid Agency, Marianas Visitors Authority, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, and the

NMI Museum. The Department of Finance continues to strive for excellence in the services it delivers to the CNMI. The Department of Finance is comprised of the following divisions: Division of CNMI Treasury & Passport Acceptance Office, Division of Customs Biosecurity, Division of Financial Services, Division of Procurement Services, Division of Revenue and Taxation, and the Office of Information Technology. For more information, contact DOF at (670) 664-1100 or [info@dof.gov.mp](mailto:info@dof.gov.mp). (PR)

## Finance reminds agencies of purchasing guidelines

The Department of Finance would like to remind all government agencies of the importance of accurate and timely processing and management of requisition entries, purchase orders, change orders, contract entries, and direct invoices related to utilities, fuel, and communications. Departments are expected to follow these guidelines on a monthly basis. Effective monitoring and management of these processes is critical

for ensuring timely fiscal year-end closing procedures, and following the guidelines helps to prepare for the year-end closing each year. The info-graphic to complement the memorandum that was distributed is included in this article. For purchasing guideline inquiries, contact: [financeaccounting@dof.gov.mp](mailto:financeaccounting@dof.gov.mp) or [procurement@dof.gov.mp](mailto:procurement@dof.gov.mp). For general inquires, email [info@dof.gov.mp](mailto:info@dof.gov.mp) or call (670) 664-1100. (PR)

Outstanding Requisition Entries, Purchase Orders, Change Orders, Contract Entries, & Direct Invoices

**Requisition Entries & Purchase Orders**

- All requisition entries must be promptly submitted and processed according to departmental guidelines using the Requisition Entry module.
- To update any pending records with the following status: Created, Allocated, and Rejected, utilize the

**Timeline:**

- Entries processed by DOF within 5 business days of receipt to either reject or approve and convert to PO.
- Any records pending department action of 30 days or more will be automatically deleted

**Contract Entries**

- Contracts must be entered into the system promptly upon execution to ensure compliance with legal and procedural requirements.
- All attachments must be uploaded before releasing into approval workflow.

**Timeline:**

- Procurement services should record Contract entries within 5 business days of contract execution.

**Change Orders**

- Any changes to existing purchase orders or contracts must be promptly documented through change orders to reflect updated requirements or conditions.
- To update any long-standing purchases with Created, Allocated, and Rejected status, utilize the

**Timeline:**

- Change orders are typically processed by DOF within 5 business days of submission/release.

**Direct Invoices**

- Invoices for utilities (electricity, water, etc.), fuel (gasoline, diesel, etc.), and communications services (internet, phone, etc.) should be processed promptly to avoid service disruptions and late payment penalties.

**Timeline:**

- Direct invoices for utilities, fuel, and communications should be processed by the financial officer of each agency within 10 business days of receipt.

Reference: SFA0024-232 Procurement Guidelines for Purchasing



DOF The Introduction to Governmental Accounting and Reporting course was completed by 56 Department of Finance employees on Aug. 19-22, 2024 at the Multi-Purpose Center.



DOF Jeanne Yamamura was the instructor for the 20-hour course, attended by 90 personnel from governmental departments and agencies, and component units including accountants, grant and program managers, procurement, budget and administrative staff.

Josephine Olopai Towai Rabaulman  
Petitioner  
P.O. Box 501624 CK  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. (670) 838-0352  
Email: [ofing1670@gmail.com](mailto:ofing1670@gmail.com)

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN THE MATTER OF** } Civil Action  
**THE ESTATE OF:** } No. 24-0207

**SOPHIA OLOPAI TOWAI** } **NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Deceased/Decedent. } **AND NOTICE TO**  
} **CREDITORS**

**TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE SOPHIA OLOPAI TOWAI, OR HER ESTATE.**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Petitioner Josephine Olopai Towai Rabaulman has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) to issue Letters of Administration and appoint the Petitioner Administratrix of the estate of Sophia Olopai Towai, the deceased. Petitioner's U.S. Postal mailing address is P.O. Box 501624 CK Saipan, MP 96950, and mobile contact is (670) 838-0352.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 10:00 am before Judge Joseph N. Camacho at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or the estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to Josephine Olopai Towai Rabaulman at P.O. Box 501624 CK Saipan, MP 96950, or via electronic mail (e-mail) address hereinabove indicated.

Dated this 4th day of September, 2024

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Court

**SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**  
Office of the Mayor  
Municipality of Saipan

**NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING**

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board is hereby giving notice of its regular board meeting, to be held on September 9th, 2024, at 3:00 pm, Office of SHEFA conference room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

**A G E N D A**

**I. Preliminary Matters**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes from June 13, 2024

**II. Public Comment (s)**

**III. Committee Reports**

- a. Committee on Awards
- b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
- c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
- d. Committee on Program and Development
- e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative, and Community Affairs

**IV. Administrator's Report**

**V. Chairwoman's Report**

**VI. Old Business**

1. Compliance Officer Position
2. Status of Compliance/Loans/Repayment

**VII. New Business**

1. Fall 2024 Application Status
2. Budget Report
3. Upcoming 2024 Citizen Centric Report

**VIII. Executive Session**

**IX. Miscellaneous Matters**

**X. Next Meeting**

**XI. Adjournment**

/s/ Ms. Kaelani B. Demapan- Chairwoman, Board of SHEFA Directors

P.O. Box 10001, PMB 3648 Saipan, MP 96950-8901  
Tel. (670) 233-5995/235-1020/21 • Telefax: (670) 233-5996  
E-mail: [saipanshefa@gmail.com](mailto:saipanshefa@gmail.com) • Website: [www.saipanshefa.com](http://www.saipanshefa.com)

**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp) • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) through its Chairperson, hereby informs the General Public that the NMHC Board of Directors will hold its special meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**CORPORATE DIRECTORS REPORT**

- a. Board Resolution to amend Signatory on all Bank Accounts

**DEPUTY CORPORATE DIRECTORS REPORT**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Five Star Builders Protest for NMHC IFB 2024-002 200-foot Communication Tower for the Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) Project at Mt. Tapochau, Saipan
- b. Personnel

**LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/  
Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane  
Chairperson of the Board

Richard C. Miller, F0458  
BANES HOREY BERMAN & MILLER LLC  
Macararas Building, First Floor  
4165 Beach Road, Garapan  
P.O. Box 501969  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel.: (670) 234-5684  
Email: [RMiller@pacificlawyers.law](mailto:RMiller@pacificlawyers.law)

**Attorneys for Petitioner/Plaintiff Joaquin C. Sablan**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**JOAQUIN CHISATO SABLAN,** } **CIVIL CASE NO.**  
} **23-0203-CV**

**Petitioner/Plaintiff,** }  
} **SUMMONS**

**vs.** }  
}

**XIAO YAN CHEN** }  
**INDALECIO, THOMAS** }  
**HENRY ZHU INDALECIO,** }  
**APRIL RITA ZHU** }  
**INDALECIO, YVONNE** }  
**ZHU INDALECIO,** }  
**JASMINE ANA ZHU** }  
**INDALECIO, EDWIN** }  
**JOSEPH SABLAN** }  
**INDALECIO, LUIS** }  
**TAIMANAO INDALECIO,** }  
**BRENDA ANN SABLAN** }  
**INDALECIO, RITA** }  
**INDALECIO REYES,** }  
**FRANCES DANIEL,** }  
**FRANCES T. DANIEL** }  
**TUDELA, AND DOES** }  
**1-25, INCLUDING ALL** }  
**PERSONS CLAIMING** }  
**ANY RIGHT, TITLE, OR** }  
**INTEREST IN LOT** }  
**NO. 549-C,** }  
}

**Respondents/** }  
**Defendants,}** }

**TO DEFENDANTS:**  
**(1) APRIL RITA ZHU INDALECIO**  
**(2) THOMAS HENRY ZHU INDALECIO**  
**(3) YVONNE ZHU INDALECIO**  
**(4) JASMINE ANA ZHU INDALECIO**

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** and notified to file with the Clerk of Court for the CNMI Superior Court any answer you wish to make to the Verified Petition to Quiet Title and Complaint in Ejectment and Trespass in the above-captioned case ("Verified Petition"), a copy of which is available from the Clerk of Court for the CNMI Superior Court. You may also receive a copy of Verified Petition by contacting Plaintiff's attorneys:

BANES HOREY BERMAN & MILLER, LLC  
P.O. Box 501969  
4165 Beach Road, First Floor, Macararas Building, Garapan  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone: (670) 789-8176  
Email: [cnmi@pacificlawyers.law](mailto:cnmi@pacificlawyers.law)

Your answer is due within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Summons in a newspaper of general publication in the CNMI. If you fail to file an Answer in accordance with the Summons, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Verified Petition.

Dated: this 22nd day of August, 2024.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Court



# Kids Sound Bath Healing Session held for families with children with autism, special needs

Did you know that sound healing is a type of therapy? Sound healing uses sound vibrations to improve your health and overall well-being. On July 26, 2024 the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library hosted its very first Sound Bath Healing Session with Asia Camacho Hilario during our Sensory Night Program. The positive feedback from the community members who joined the session, were so profound, that she graced us with another session on Aug. 30, 2024 which ended up being an even bigger success than the first!

Hilario is a business mindset coach, women empowerment podcaster, and holistic healer. We are deeply grateful to Asia for generously sharing her talents and expertise with our community. Sound Bath Healing has been shown to have a calming and balancing effect on the mind and body, making it a perfect addition to our Sensory Night program. Participants have notably mentioned enjoying the experience, and being excited about having the opportunity to do so. Others mentioned that the environment and ambience made it easy for their children to adjust. We are all very appreciative to Hilario for bringing new healing modalities to the



Joeten-Kiyu Public Library hosted its very first Sound Bath Healing Session with Asia Camacho Hilario during its Sensory Night Program last July 26.

island to help her community heal holistically.

The Sound Bath Healing sessions took place at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in the Children of Our Homeland, aka the Children's Library. The session was based on a "First Come First Serve" basis, and accepted up to 30 pax families. Our Sensory Night Program takes place every Friday, from 5pm to 7pm. For more information pertaining to this program, you can kindly contact Celina Foreman or Sina Palacios in the Children's room

at (670)235-7315.

## About JKPL's Sensory Corner

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's mission is to preserve the CNMI's cultural heritage and connect people, libraries, and government to the resources and tools they need to succeed and build a stronger community. The library is committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Li-

brary's Sensory Corner was made possible through grant funding from the Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities—an initiative of the American Library Association, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and generous donors and sponsors through Educational Tax Credit. The Sensory Corner provides community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better

serve people with disabilities.

The Sensory Corner is located in the Children of Our Homeland aka the Children's Library filled with stationary activities, learning to go packages, activated technology assistance devices, sensory toys, musical instruments, etc. The Sensory Corner is open daily during library hours of operation. Particularly every Friday, JKPL hosts Sensory Night for children with autism and special needs from 5pm to 7pm throughout the year.

Please enjoy your public library's free resources by visiting our website at [www.cnmlib.org](http://www.cnmlib.org) like/follow JKPL's Facebook page @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Instagram @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Tik Tok @jkpl670, Twitter @JoetenKiyu, and Youtube: joeten kiyu public library or visit our website [www.cnmlib.org](http://www.cnmlib.org) to see the progress and programs JKPL has worked so hard to offer for our community. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's hours of operation are as follows: Open Tuesday to Thurs-

day 10am to 6pm, Friday 1:30pm to 7pm, and Saturday 9:30am to 4pm. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and Holidays. Closed for JKPL Austerity on the following Saturdays: Sept. 14 and 28, 2024

## How can you help assist with our programs?

We welcome and encourage businesses to please consider donating Educational Tax Credit. Pursuant to NMI Public Law 15-120, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is able to receive cash contributions under Educational Tax Credit. Please make checks payable to: CNMI Treasury. For MUNIS payments, to the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library MUNIS Vendor ID#100404.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services LS-256853-OLS-24.

This project was made possible in part by the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is an equal opportunity provider and employer. (PR)

## Chamorro and Carolinian Heritage Month with JKPL

Did you hear that the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be hosting a read aloud of books written in Chamorro and Carolinian? That's right! On Saturday, Sept. 7 and 21, JKPL will be hosting a read aloud. We are excited to extend an invitation for families to come by and enjoy this experience in celebration of Chamorro and Carolinian Heritage Month!

The read aloud will start at 10:30am and will be followed by an activity for children to engage in afterwards. If you would like, you are also welcome to borrow cultural books from our Pacific Collection and to take a look at our cultural display of artifacts curated over the years! Spread the word, and we hope to see you there!

The Chamorro and Carolinian Heritage read aloud and activity will take place at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in the Children of Our Homeland, a.k.a. the Children's Library. For more information pertaining to this event, kindly contact Celina Foreman or Sina Palacios, who can be reached at (670)235-7315.

Please enjoy your public library's free resources by visiting our website at [www.cnmlib.org](http://www.cnmlib.org) like/follow JKPL's Facebook page @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Instagram @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Tik Tok @jkpl670, Twitter @Jo-

etenKiyu, and Youtube: joeten kiyu public library or visit our website [www.cnmlib.org](http://www.cnmlib.org) to see the progress and programs JKPL has worked so hard to offer for our community. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's hours of operation are as follows: Open Tuesday to Thursday 10am to 6pm, Friday 1:30pm to 7pm, and Saturday 9:30am to 4pm. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. Closed for JKPL Austerity on the following Saturdays: Sept. 14 and 28, 2024

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



# Life & Style

## Sergio Mendes, Grammy-winning Brazilian music legend, dies at 83

**RIO DE JANEIRO** (AP)—Sergio Mendes, the celebrated Brazilian musician whose 1966 hit “Mas Que Nada” made him a global superstar and helped launched a long, Grammy-winning career, has died after months battling the effects of long COVID. He was 83.

The death Thursday of the Brazilian pianist, songwriter and arranger was confirmed in a statement by his family.

“His wife and musical partner for the past 54 years, Gracinha Leporace Mendes, was by his side, as were his loving children,” the statement Friday said. “Mendes last performed in November 2023 to sold out and wildly enthusiastic houses in Paris,



Brazilian musician Sergio Mendes sits for a portrait at home in Los Angeles, May 18, 2021. AP

London and Barcelona.”

Mendes was born in Niterói, Rio de Janeiro’s sister city, and studied classical music at a conservatory

before joining jazz groups. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, he began playing Bossa Nova as the genre was heating up in Rio’s

nightclub scene with Antonio Carlos Jobim, João Gilberto and others.

In 1962, they traveled to New York for a Bossa Nova festival at Carnegie Hall. During the trip, Cannonball Adderley invited Mendes to collaborate on the album “Cannonball Adderley and The Bossa Rio Sextet,” leading to his first American record, “The Swinger from Rio,” after signing with Atlantic Records.

Two years later, Mendes moved to California and formed Brazil ’64, which evolved into Brazil ’66 after he added two female vocalists. The group’s debut album, produced by Herb Alpert, featured “Mas Que

Nada.” Sung entirely in Portuguese, “Mas Que Nada” was a mid-tempo Samba number originally released in 1963 by composer Jorge Ben Sor, and updated three years later by Mendes, who had been playing the song in clubs and gave it a jazzier, more hard-hitting feel.

“I put a band together called Brasil ’66,” he told The Guardian in 2019. “I’d always had instrumental groups, but when I added the two female singers—Lani Hall and Bibi Vogel—it made a different kind of sound. We recorded the song in Los Angeles, with me, the drums, bass and guitar all performing live.”

Mendes’ version was a

worldwide hit that helped perpetuate the Brazilian music boom of the 1960s. In 2006, a modern version of the song topped U.S. charts, as performed by Black Eyed Peas. It was included in his album “Timeless,” produced by will.i.am and also featuring Stevie Wonder, Justin Timberlake and John Legend, among others.

“Sergio Mendes was my brother from another country,” trumpet player Alpert wrote on Facebook, along with a photo from decades ago, sitting next to Mendes at the piano. “He was a true friend and extremely gifted musician who brought Brazilian music in all its iterations to the entire world with elegance.”

## ‘The Bear’ and ‘Shogun’ could start claiming trophies early at Creative Arts Emmy Awards

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Top Emmy nominees “Shogun” and “The Bear” can start running up the score early at the two-night Creative Arts Emmy Awards, which honor artistic and technical achievement in television.

The Saturday and Sunday ceremonies are a precursor to the main Emmys ceremony, hosted by Dan and Eugene Levy, that will air at 8 p.m. EST Sept. 15 on ABC.

Presenters at the Creative Arts ceremonies—held at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles like the forthcoming bigger show—will include Oscar winners and current Emmy nominees Jamie Lee Curtis and Brie Larson.

Creative arts nominees also include names as big as Ryan

Gosling and Angela Bassett.

But such nominees don’t often show up, and the nearly 100 trophies that will be handed out in a pair of marathon shows Saturday and Sunday are mostly deep cuts for the less-than-famous. Outstanding contemporary makeup (non prosthetic) is a typical category. The evenings give a moment of glamour—and for winners a moment on stage—to hairdressers, stunt performers, sound mixers and casting directors who rarely get either.

Saturday night’s show is devoted to reality, variety and talk shows. Fittingly, the craft practitioners of “Saturday Night Live” are up for a dozen awards.

Game show hosts, who do

typically show up and count as big stars on this night, and their Emmy category includes the recently retired Pat Sajak of “Wheel of Fortune” along with Ken Jennings for “Jeopardy,” Steve Harvey for “Celebrity Family Feud” and Keke Palmer for “Password.”

The best narrator award always draws famous figures—last year’s winner was Barack Obama—and this year is no exception, with Bassett, Morgan Freeman, Paul Rudd and Octavia Spencer among the nominees.

Sunday’s show shifts to scripted comedies and dramas.

“Shogun” the FX series about politicking in feudal Japan, leads all nominees this year with 25. Seventeen of



An Emmy statue appears one stage at the 49th annual Daytime Emmy Awards in Pasadena, Calif., on June 24, 2022. AP

those awards will be handed out Sunday in craft categories it could easily dominate, including best period costumes, best prosthetic makeup and best stunt performance.

“The Bear,” FX’s series about a scrappy culinary gang, leads all nominees in the comedy categories with 23. Fourteen of those will come up Sunday, including nomina-

tions for its cinematography, its hairstyling and its all star team of guest actors including Curtis, fellow Oscar-winner Olivia Colman, Bob Odenkirk and Jon Bernthal.

Yet another Oscar winner, Da’Vine Joy Randolph, is also nominated in Curtis and Colman’s category—best guest actress in a comedy—for her acting on “Only Murders in the Building.”

Other presenters who are also nominees include Hannah Waddingham, Jane Lynch and Mark Cuban.

Gosling is nominated in the guest acting category for his work as host of “Saturday Night Live,” as are two of the show’s alums, Kristen Wiig and Maya Rudolph. Rudolph is up for four Emmys, three of which will be given out at Creative Arts.

## Silence from relatives deepens loss of mother

**DEAR ABBY:** Two years ago, my mother developed a small nagging cough, and her overall health started to decline. She entered the hospital on a Monday and by the end of the week, she had passed away from a very aggressive form of lung cancer. We were very close, and I was devastated.

I prepared the obituary and also posted an announcement on Facebook. For days, I heard from friends and family offering condolences. But I never heard a word from my husband’s niece and nephew. My husband’s sister and her husband (their parents) came to the funeral, even though the family lives in a state distant from ours.

I thought we were close to this niece and nephew. They each have children of their own, so they are neither young nor immature. I have been filled with resentment since then. I love them, which is why it hurts so much. I thought we were closer than that.

How can I get past this? I miss my dear mother and the advice and love she provided. After the funeral, I talked to my husband about how brokenhearted I feel. He is a practical person and said I should move on. Is he right?

STILL HURTING IN ALABAMA

**DEAR STILL HURTING:** Please allow me to offer my sympathy for the loss of your mother, who obviously lives

on in your heart. I don’t know whether she would have said this to you, but I don’t think she would have wanted you to harbor resentment.

Sometimes, people keep silent because they don’t know how to express their feelings or are afraid they might say the wrong thing. I don’t know why your younger relatives didn’t reach out to offer condolences upon your mother’s passing, but this may have been the reason. Practicing forgiveness would be healthier than nursing the resentment you are feeling now.

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** How can I plan and enjoy holidays at my home with my three adult children? One daughter and her husband always find ways to hold imaginary grudges against our other two daughters. This daughter claims to be always left out, yet she never reaches out to her sisters or even to me and her dad. She and her husband fabricate things that aren’t true and stop communicating with everyone. We are always left in the dark.

This has been going on during her entire married life. My husband and I have health issues and no longer want to deal with her childish drama. We would like to have all of us together for holiday get-togethers but can’t because of their hard feelings over imaginary slights.

DISCOURAGED IN PENNSYLVANIA

## DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**DEAR DISCOURAGED:** If this has been going on ever since your daughter married her husband, he may be the one stirring the pot. It’s a shame because what he’s really doing is isolating her. I am sorry you didn’t mention how you handle these temporary estrangements. My advice is to be your warm, friendly self. Continue inviting your daughter to these family get-togethers. If she shows up, great. If she doesn’t, celebrate without her, which might be easier considering the tension she brings with her.

■■■

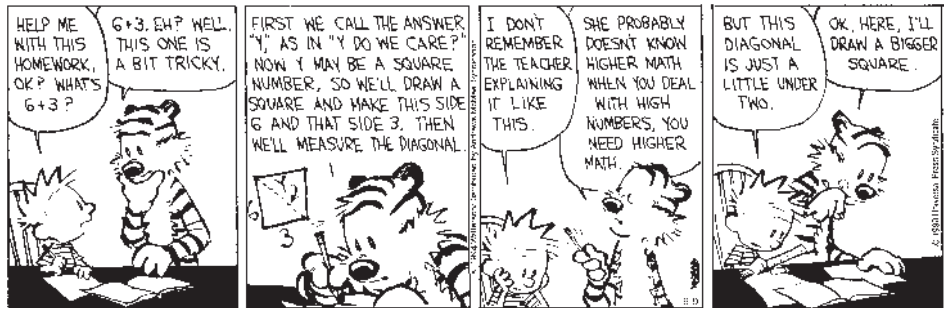
For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

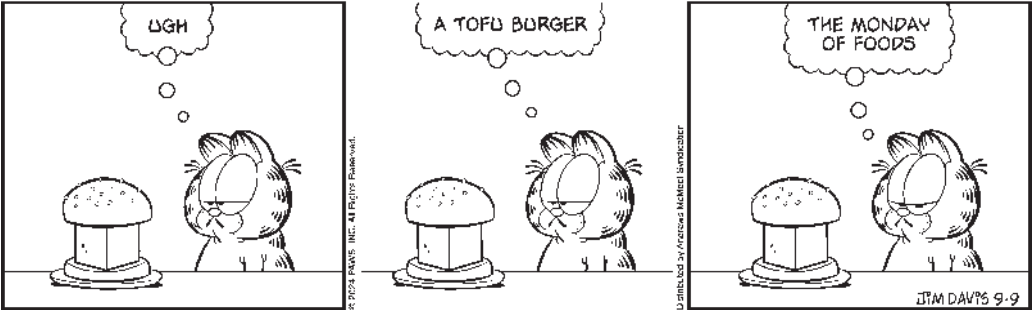
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



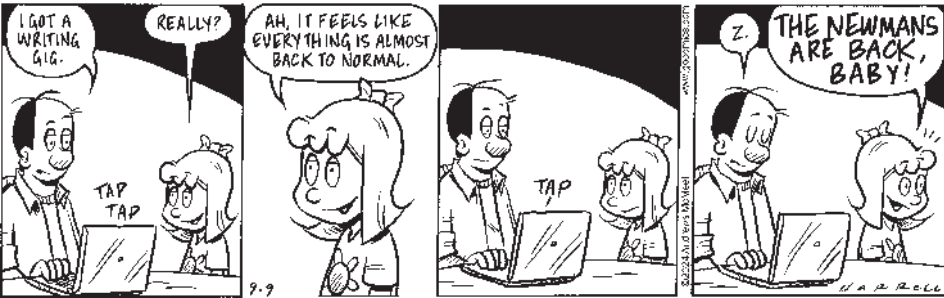
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Part of Q.E.D.  
5 Kilmer of "The Doors"  
8 Heap  
12 Throbbing headache  
14 During  
15 One of eight  
16 Abel's brother  
17 Billy — Williams  
18 Nixon daughter  
20 iTunes down-loads  
23 Role in "Evita"  
24 Clarified butter  
25 Church readers  
28 Airport screening org.  
29 Doles (out)  
30 Ages and ages  
32 Narcotics  
34 Grocery

**DOWN**

1 Moody music  
35 Spa mixtures  
36 Soil  
37 Papal envoy  
40 Pitch  
41 Buckeye state  
42 Prom corsage, say  
47 Big knife  
48 Ship-building facility  
49 Writer Sil-verstein  
50 HBO rival  
51 Deli loaves

**Solution time: 21 mins**

**Last Friday's answer 9-9**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Michelle Williams, 44; Eric Stonestreet, 53; Adam Sandler, 58; Hugh Grant, 64.

**Happy Birthday:** Pay attention to what and who matters to you. Your intuition will point you in the right direction, and initiating change will help you capture your dreams. Put energy behind your words and manufacture opportunities that encourage you to use your skills and talents to bring in extra cash. Communicate from the heart and reach out to those with something valuable to contribute to your cause and concerns. Your numbers are 6, 11, 17, 26, 31, 38, 44.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Don't let anger take over when being successful is the best revenge. Put your energy into what you can accomplish, look your best, act professionally, and execute your intentions with class, dignity and outstanding performance. Let your actions and accomplishments speak for you. Opportunity is apparent.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Offer only what's possible, and be willing to make concessions and micromanage what you want to achieve from start to finish. Attitude is everything; be proud, put a smile on your face and be enthusiastic in presenting your ideas with a twist that differentiates you from the competition.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Plan and present your thoughts clearly and precisely. You'll face opposition if you mislead those you solicit. It is best to keep your thoughts and emotions to yourself and focus on self-improvement, protecting your reputation and position, and personal growth. A change of pace is favored.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** There is a difference between persuasive and pushy. Choose your words and mannerisms carefully, and you'll capture an empathetic response from those you want and need on your team. Strength and courage will overrule emotional manipulation. A change may be necessary to counter going over budget.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Consistency will be an issue. Do your best to stick to your plans and fulfill your promises. Taking the time to plan your actions with precision is the precursor to your success. Take precautions, be innovative and refuse to let anyone disrupt your thoughts and plans.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Don't sit back when action is necessary. Be blunt about what you want and what you are willing to give back in return. Set high standards and oversee every detail to ensure you get what you want. Specific, simple and selective action will pay off.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Jump to action, be a part of the solution and improve your life. Put a budget in place and set doable goals, and you'll make progress. Take advantage of any opportunity to travel, learn or explore something that excites you. Romance is in the stars.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Turn up the volume and move forward with vigor, a plan and a positive attitude. Refuse to let outside influences stand between you and your goal. Participate, network and surround yourself with can-do people. Build your plans and goals on solid ground, and don't look back.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Use your imagination, but don't lose sight of realism. Knowing what you can do will save you time and money. Pay attention to what others say and do, and be ready to step in and take over if necessary. Staying on course is essential to

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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completion and success.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** An open-minded approach to possible change will give you hope for a better future. Don't take anything for granted; budget wisely and weed out what isn't necessary. An unusual contact or message you receive will verify your thoughts and feelings and encourage new beginnings. Avoid health risks.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Look at the big picture and consider your options. Reconfigure your plans to suit your budget and capabilities. An opportunity to explore how you can use your talents uniquely will help you reach your goal. Personal growth, success and physical improvement are within reach.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Pump up your energy and go the distance. Play to win, and don't look back. Heading in an uncertain direction may daunt you, but with each step, you will gain insight into how you want things to unfold. Follow your gut and use your skills reflectively.

**Birthday Baby:** You are engaging, precise and helpful. You are responsive and original.

© Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☹️ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☹️☹️ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☹️☹️☹️ Aim high; start new projects. ☹️☹️☹️☹️ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

2 9 4 7

1 7 8

8 5 1

7 9 4 5

6 2 8 9 3

3

6 3 1 8 4

8 1 3 7 4 2 9 6

2 6 1 3 5

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

9 2 8 3 6 5 7 1 4

4 7 5 1 2 8 9 6 3

6 3 1 9 7 4 5 8 2

7 5 4 8 3 9 6 2 1

2 8 3 6 5 1 4 7 9

1 6 9 2 4 7 8 3 5

8 9 2 4 1 6 3 5 7

5 1 6 7 9 3 2 4 8

3 4 7 5 8 2 1 9 6

Difficulty: ★ 9/9  
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## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

**QR CODES** Solution: 10 letters

N W E L I B O M E D I C A L D

O O E I S D D E V I C E M A N

I R I B A U E S S C I N A L T

T K H T S C T S G O L I R A E

A P E E A I S A A D B C E I N

M L D R A C T G T E U C M C R

R A T P H L I E P S P A I E

O C T E X T T F S R G V C F T

F E C L A H M H I E I Y I F N

N K U R C A T N A T S N I O I

I D E N T I F Y D I N E T Q N

N A U R E C E I P T S E U N D

D A I S A V E R I F Y I D A O

L X C O N F E R E N C E T I O

P E R S O N A L G K C A R T R

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Camera, Card, Check, Codes, Conference, Data, Date, Device, Dine, Health, Identification, Identify, Image, Indoor, Information, Instant, Internet, Launch, Matrix, Medical, Message, Mobile, Name, Official, Personal, Print, Public, Quick, Read, Receipts, Save, Scan, Status, Tags, Text, Trace, Track, Vaccine, Venue, Verify, Websites, Workplace  
Last Friday's answer: Pattern  
The NEW Volume 77 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.  
or call 1-800-642-6480, (in Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Chiefs hold off Ravens when review overturns TD on final play of season opener



**KANSAS CITY, Mo.**

(AP)—Patrick Mahomes thought for a moment that

the Chiefs were headed to overtime. So did Ravens counterpart Lamar Jackson, who had found Isaiah Likely in the back of the end zone with no time left for a touchdown that appeared to tie the game.

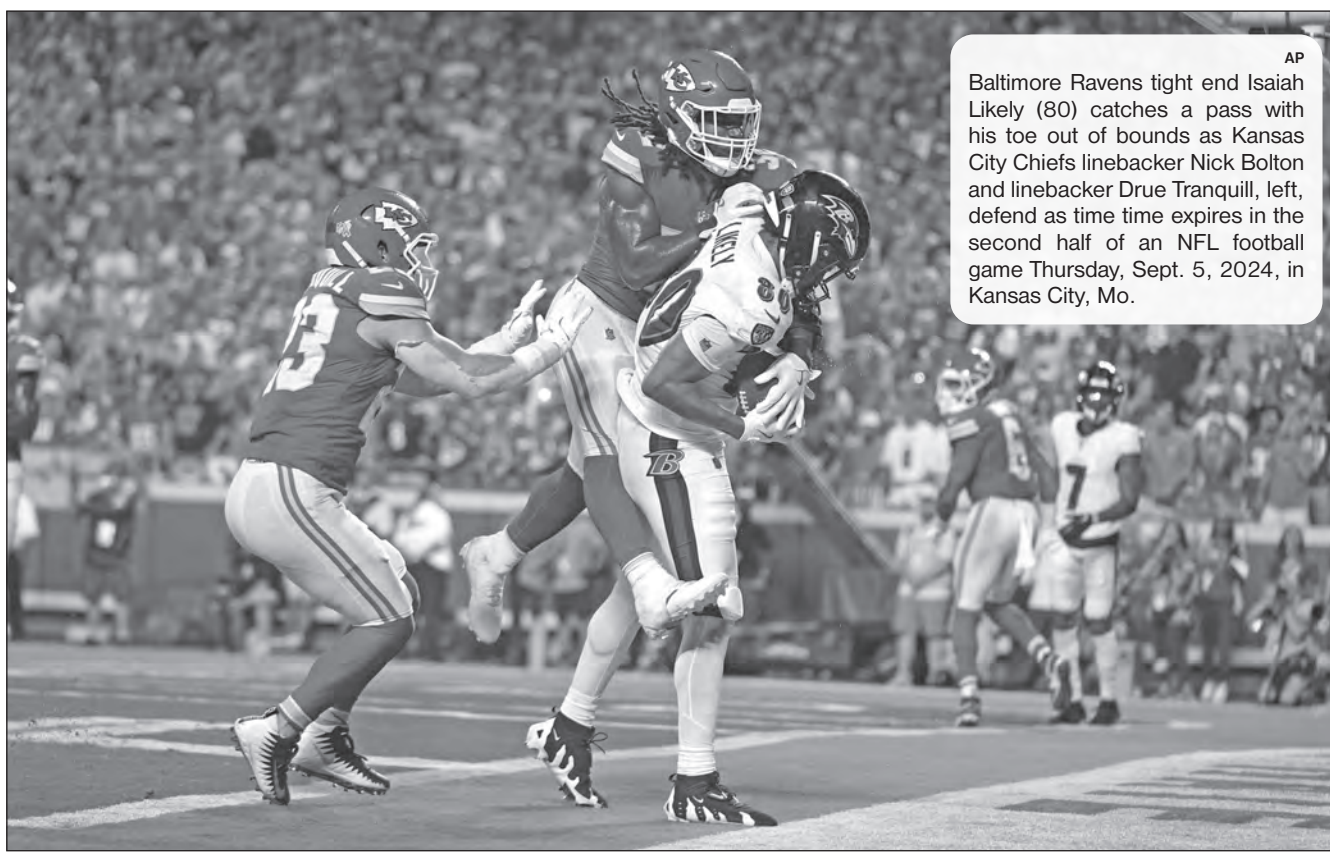
In the end, the NFL's season opener Thursday night was decided by referee Shawn Hochuli undertaking a video review.

With a capacity crowd that included pop superstar Taylor Swift waiting in anticipation, Hochuli needed just seconds looking at that final play before making his announcement: Likely landed with his toe on the endline, putting the Baltimore tight end out of bounds, and giving the Chiefs a 27-20 victory as they began pursuit of a record third consecutive Super Bowl title.

"Definitely nerve-wracking because it looked good from my angle on the sideline," Mahomes said, "but then the first view you could see his cleat. ... You have to wear white cleats next time. That's my advice for him."

Mahomes threw for 291 yards and with a touchdown pass to Xavier Worthy, who also scored a rushing TD in his NFL debut, as the Chiefs not only won the rematch of last season's AFC title game but beat the Ravens for the fifth time in six meetings.

That lopsided ledger has been especially frustrating for Jackson, who has called



AP  
Baltimore Ravens tight end Isaiah Likely (80) catches a pass with his toe out of bounds as Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Nick Bolton and linebacker Drue Tranquill, left, defend as time expires in the second half of an NFL football game Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo.

Kansas City the Ravens' "kryptonite." He was sublime Thursday night, throwing for 273 yards and a touchdown and adding 122 yards on the ground, but that review of the final play left him to rue another missed opportunity to finally upstage Mahomes and Co.

"I thought it was a touchdown," Jackson said. "Still think it was a touchdown."

The Ravens were trailing 27-17 in the fourth quarter before kicking a field goal, then got the ball back at their own 13 with 1:50 left and no timeouts. Jackson completed a couple of throws to Likely, who had 111 yards receiving and a score, and scrambled for a crucial first down. Two plays

later, Jackson found Rashod Bateman down the sideline for 38 yards to move the Ravens to the Kansas City 10 with 19 seconds remaining.

Jackson's first pass was a throwaway, but his second missed wide-open Zay Flowers in the back of the end zone. Then came the final throw, after Jackson had scrambled for what seemed like an eternity, and Likely looked like he had forced overtime.

Ravens coach John Harbaugh even signaled for his team to try a winning 2-point conversion, though it never got the chance.

"I thought our guys (overcame) setbacks at times, and fought like crazy to overcome. It looked like we had an op-

portunity there to tie the game up and try to win," Harbaugh said. "Didn't happen at the end, but our guys fought."

The wild ending came after the start was delayed about 20 minutes by a storm that brought heavy rain and lightning.

The Ravens proceeded to open with an 11-play, 70-yard drive that ended with Derrick Henry, who had tormented the Chiefs in six previous meetings while he was with Tennessee, plunging into the end zone from 5 yards out for the early lead.

But the high-octane Chiefs, trying to avoid back-to-back season-opening losses, needed just two minutes to answer. Mahomes twice connected

with Rashee Rice, who has so far avoided any NFL punishment for his role in an alleged street-racing crash in Dallas, before Worthy showed why the Chiefs made him their first-round pick with his 21-yard touchdown run.

After those two drives, though, the first half was mostly marked by Week 1 blunders.

Jackson was strip-sacked by Chris Jones deep in his own territory, leading to a Kansas City field goal. Flowers was stopped short of the first-down marker on fourth-and-3 near midfield on the Ravens' next series, leading to another field goal. And even Justin Tucker, one of the league's most accurate kickers, pulled a 53-yard

field-goal attempt wide left.

The Chiefs were not immune to mistakes. Mahomes' pass was picked off by Roquan Smith on a poor throw late in the first half, leading to a chip-shot field goal that got Baltimore—which trailed twice at halftime all of last season—to 13-10 at the break.

Yet the Ravens' inability to get into the end zone, and swing the momentum their way, ultimately proved costly.

The Chiefs opened the second half with an 81-yard touchdown march to extend their lead. Then, after Jackson had connected with Likely on a broken play for a 49-yard touchdown throw, Mahomes drove them 70 yards against the No. 1 scoring defense in the NFL last season for a touchdown that made it 27-17 with 10 minutes to go.

Tucker made it a one-score game with his field goal with 4:54 to go, and Baltimore quickly forced a punt. But despite Jackson's impassioned play, he was left to trudge off the field after another disappointing loss to the Chiefs.

"It was a fight down to the end," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "When they say it's a game of inches, might be shorter than that."

Swift, the girlfriend of Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, wasn't the only star attending the NFL's opening night. Quincy Hall, the Olympic 400-meter champion, was in the crowd along with AC Milan midfielder Christian Pulisic, who will join his U.S. teammates Saturday night for an exhibition against Canada at nearby Children's Mercy Park.

## Barkley scores 3 TDs as Eagles beat Packers 34-29 in Brazil

**SAO PAULO (AP)**—Saquon Barkley has been practicing the art of positive thinking since switching teams for the first time in his career.

Yet he probably couldn't have imagined making such a spectacular debut for the Philadelphia Eagles.

Barkley scored three touchdowns Friday night in the first NFL game in South America and led the Eagles to a 34-29 victory over the Green Bay Packers, who lost quarterback Jordan Love to an injury in the closing seconds.

"I'm always about visualizing success and putting positivity in my mind," said Barkley, who became the first player to score three touchdowns in his Eagles debut since Terrell Owens in 2004. "That's one of my goals this year: Be more of a positive thinker."

Now it's the Packers who will try to get negative thoughts out of their minds as

they worry about the future of Love, who signed a four-year, \$220 million extension this summer. Love limped off the field with assistance after getting injured with 6 seconds left.

Packers coach Matt LaFleur had no update on Love's condition after the game.

Backup Malik Willis was sacked by Zack Baun on the final play, preventing him from launching a Hail Mary from the Philadelphia 47.

"We've got to learn from this," LaFleur said. "Because, just watching the tape, and I'm not trying to take anything away from Philly—they battled and they played their game—but I think there was a lot of opportunities that we didn't capitalize."

Barkley rushed for 109 yards and scored on an 18-yard catch and runs of 11 and 2 yards. He spent six seasons with the New York Giants before Philadelphia signed him to

a three-year, \$37.75 million deal with \$26 million guaranteed.

Jalen Hurts was 20 of 34 for 278 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions for the Eagles. A.J. Brown caught five passes for 119 yards, including a 67-yard touchdown, in a festive setting that Eagles coach Nick Sirianni compared to a playoff atmosphere.

"Man, did Brazil get a great game tonight or what?" Sirianni said. "I know we converted some people to be big-time football fans tonight."

Green Bay's Jayden Reed scored on a 33-yard jet sweep and a 70-yard reception, which was the longest touchdown completion of Love's career. Reed caught Love's pass inside Philadelphia's 40 and made a move at around the 30 that sent safety C.J. Gardner-Johnson sprawling.

Reed became the first player to have a touchdown catch of 30-plus yards and a touch-

down run of 30-plus yards in a season opener since Hall of Famer Jim Brown of the Cleveland Browns against Washington in 1963.

Reed also had an apparent 38-yard touchdown reception on the opening drive get wiped out because both teams had 12 men on the field. He finished with four catches for 138 yards.

Love went 17 of 34 for 260 yards with two touchdowns and an interception.

Barkley's third touchdown put the Eagles ahead 31-26 with 4:26 left in the third quarter. Reed Blankenship set up that score with an interception that gave Philadelphia the ball at Green Bay's 25.

The Eagles still led 31-26 when Jaire Alexander intercepted Hurts in the end zone early in the fourth quarter. Green Bay drove into the red zone but settled for a 26-yard field goal by rookie Brayden

Narveson, who went 3 for 4 on his attempts.

Philadelphia then controlled possession until Jake Elliott kicked a 21-yard field goal with 27 seconds left.

Some Eagles players had expressed reluctance earlier this week about traveling to Brazil, which cost them the opportunity to play their season opener in front of a friendly crowd at Lincoln Financial Field. The crowd at NeoQuimica Arena instead was balanced among Packers fans, Eagles fans and spectators who just cheered any positive development.

The Eagles weren't complaining afterward.

"I don't know if Sao Paulo knows when to cheer, but it was great," Brown said. "It was loud the entire time. They kind of got a bad rap. We got a whole bunch of 'Don't do's,' but it's been great ever since we got here."

Players from both teams were slipping on the playing surface throughout the

first half, prompting many to change their cleats. A Brazilian soccer league game was played in the stadium five days earlier.

NeoQuimica Arena's field is often praised by soccer players as Brazil's best, but it had never hosted an American football game. The hybrid field includes both grass and synthetic fiber.

The slippery surface may have contributed to a sloppy start.

Philadelphia committed turnovers on each of its first two series, enabling Green Bay to start back-to-back drives in the red zone, but the Packers settled for field goals both times.

"The red area was a huge problem tonight," LaFleur said. "I would say a year ago, we were pretty damn good in that area. And we got destroyed in that area tonight."

The offenses took over in the second and third quarters. Six of seven possessions resulted in touchdowns.



# Yankees clinch 32nd straight winning season by blanking Cubs once again



## CHICAGO

(AP)—Clarke Schmidt and Nestor Cortes combined on a four-hitter, and the New York Yankees clinched their 32nd straight winning season by blanking the Chicago Cubs 2-0 on Saturday.

Schmidt pitched 4 2/3 innings of four-hit ball in his first big league game since May 26. Cortes (9-10) closed it out in his first relief appearance since 2021.

Coupled with Baltimore's 7-1 loss to Tampa Bay, New York moved back into first in the AL East. The Yankees (82-60) lead the Orioles by a half-game.

Cortes admitted he was upset when he learned he was going to pitch in relief.

"I'm never going to back down from a challenge," Cortes said. "I'm never going to leave my teammates out to dry. You're always going to get my best effort no matter if I'm happy or not. That's what I did today. I came out there and proved I can be put in any situation. From here on out, if that's my role, I'll accept it."

Schmidt had been sidelined by a right lat strain. He threw 75 pitches, 44 for strikes.

"I felt like I still had a lot of strength and I wasn't fatiguing at all," Schmidt said.

New York posted its second straight shutout to secure its first series win since it took two of three against Colorado from Aug. 23-25. The 32 straight seasons with a winning record is the second-longest such period in major league history, trailing a run of 39 consecutive seasons for the Yankees from 1926-64.

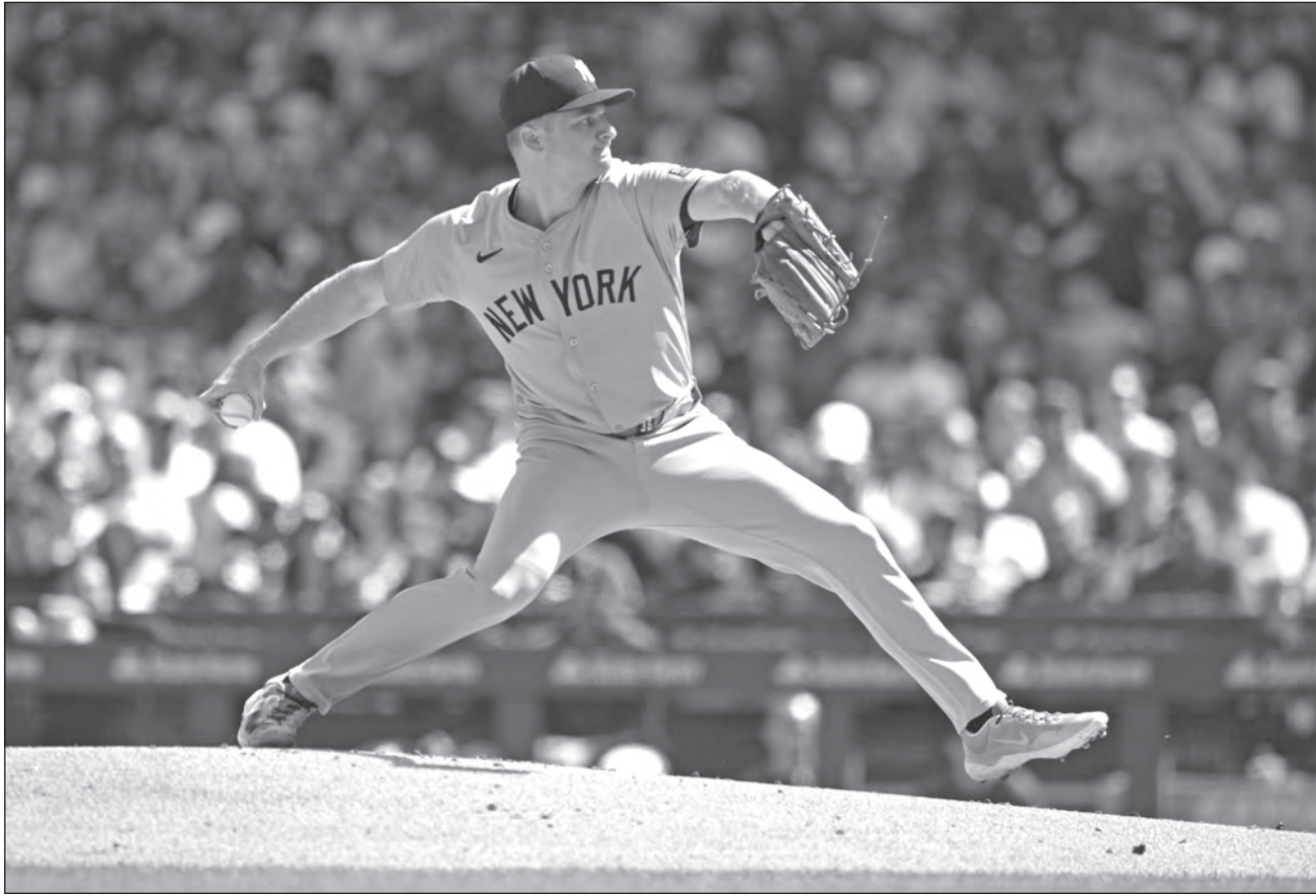
Chicago (72-70) has lost four of five on a crucial home-stand as it tries to rally in the race for the third NL wild card. It beat Pittsburgh 12-0 on Wednesday, but it has managed a total of three other runs in its last five games, getting shut out three times.

"We feel like we have a good enough ballclub to be in the playoffs and in the picture, but we're going to have to play a little bit better and keep pushing here," left fielder Ian Happ said.

Cubs right-hander Javier Assad (7-5) allowed one earned run and three hits in 5 2/3 innings.

New York scored its first run when Austin Wells drove in Gleyber Torres with a ground-out in the first. The Yankees made it 2-0 in the sixth when Aaron Judge swiped third as part of a double steal and scampered home on catcher Christian Bethancourt's throwing error.

Judge, who leads the majors with 51 homers, went 0 for 3 with a walk. He hasn't hom-



New York Yankees starter Clarke Schmidt delivers a pitch during the first inning of a baseball game against the Chicago Cubs in Chicago, Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024.

ered in 11 games in his longest streak of the season.

The Cubs had their best scoring opportunity in the fifth. Pete Crow-Armstrong singled with one out, but was caught stealing. Patrick Wisdom then tripled to right, but he was stranded when Cortes got Bethancourt to foul out.

"He handled it really well, came into a high-leverage situation with a runner on third and got the job done," Wells said of Cortes. "From there, cruised."

Yankees first baseman Anthony Rizzo heard more cheers in his second game back at Wrigley Field since he was traded by Chicago to New York in July 2021. He tipped his cap before his first at-bat and reached second on Crow-Armstrong's dropped catch in center.

## RAYS 7, ORIOLES 1

**BALTIMORE** (AP)—Yandy Diaz homered among his three hits and drove in two runs, Jose Siri denied Gunnar Henderson a potential go-ahead home run with a leaping grab and Tampa Bay beat Baltimore, knocking the Orioles from the AL East lead.

Taylor Walls also homered and had two RBIs as the Rays evened the series and dropped the Orioles a half-game behind the New York Yankees, who beat the Chicago Cubs earlier in the day.

Jonny DeLuca also had three hits and Logan Driscoll had an RBI single in the seventh inning.

Ryan Pepiot (8-6) allowed only one run over 5 1/3 innings despite allowing nine baserunners.

## TIGERS 2, ATHLETICS 1

**OAKLAND, Calif.** (AP)—Brant Hurter pitched 5 1/3 innings of one-run ball, and Detroit beat Oakland.

Detroit moved back over .500 after losing three of its previous four games. The Tigers (72-71) haven't had a winning season since they went 86-75 in 2016.

Hurter (4-1) entered after Brennan Haniffee got the first two outs as an opener. Hurter allowed four hits, struck out three and walked one.

Oakland (62-81) lost for the third time in four games. The A's wasted a sharp performance by Brady Basso, who struck out six while pitching six innings of three-hit ball.

## ASTROS 11, DIAMONDBACKS 5

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Jose Altuve and Jeremy Pena homered as Houston improved to 7-0 in games started by Yusei Kikuchi by beating scuffling Arizona.

Altuve had three hits and scored three times. Pena's 15th homer was a three-run shot, capping a five-run sixth inning that started with the Astros clinging to a one-run lead.

Houston entered with a 4 1/2-game lead in the AL West over Seattle.

Arizona, which has dropped three straight and seven of 10, began the day leading the Braves and Mets by 1 1/2 games for the second National League wild card.

## METS 4, REDS 0

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Jose Quintana earned his 100th career win with 6 2/3 sharp

innings as the surging New York Mets extended their longest winning streak in more than six years with a victory over Cincinnati.

A slumping Harrison Bader homered to spark a four-run sixth for the Mets, who have won nine straight games for the first time since April 2018. New York, which began the day tied with rival Atlanta for the final NL wild card, hasn't trailed in its last 72 innings since Aug. 30—the longest streak in the majors this season.

Bader was mired in skids of 0 for 15 and 2 for 43 before connecting off Sam Moll (3-2) in the sixth. It was Bader's 11th home run of the year, and first to the opposite field.

## MARLINS 9, PHILLIES 5

**MIAMI** (AP)—Otto Lopez was a triple shy of the cycle, Connor Norby homered and drove in three runs, and Miami snapped NL East-leading Philadelphia's six-game winning streak with a victory over the Phillies.

Jonah Bride also homered, while Xavier Edwards and Nick Fortes had two hits each for the Marlins, who had 14 hits a day after losing 16-2 to the Phillies.

John McMillon (2-1) pitched 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief for the win.

Phillies starter Aaron Nola (12-7) was lifted after he allowed five runs and nine hits over 4 2/3 innings, walking two and striking out five. It was his shortest start since allowing eight runs and 11 hits in 3 1/3 innings against Boston on June 13.

## RANGERS 6, ANGELS 4

## ARLINGTON, Texas

(AP)—Josh Smith put Texas ahead for the first time with a two-run single in the seventh inning and the Rangers overcame a pair of two-run deficits to beat the Los Angeles Angels.

Smith's sharp liner to right field capped a three-run outburst that made it 5-4, immediately following Marcus Semien's RBI single that came after a 5-for-39 stretch for the Texas leadoff hitter. Victor Mederos (0-1) had just walked the Nos. 8 and 9 batters with two outs—with ball four on the first free pass coming on a pitch-clock violation.

Jose Leclerc (6-4) retired the only two batters he faced in the seventh. All-Star closer Kirby Yates worked the ninth for his 28th save in 29 chances.

## BREWERS 5, ROCKIES 2

**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Willy Adames and Gary Sanchez hit back-to-back homers in the first inning, William Contreras later added a two-run shot and Milwaukee defeated Colorado.

Rookie right-hander Tobias Myers (7-5) recorded a career-high 11 strikeouts over six innings to help Milwaukee avoid a fourth consecutive loss. The NL Central-leading Brewers are the only major league team without a losing streak of at least four games this season.

Ryan McMahon and Sam Hilliard homered for the Rockies.

Adames put Milwaukee ahead for good with his two-out homer off Ty Blach (3-8)

in the first inning. The homer was the 30th of the season for Adames, who also has 101 RBIs. Adames entered Saturday tied with Los Angeles' Shohei Ohtani for the NL lead in RBIs.

## CARDINALS 2, MARINERS 0

**ST. LOUIS** (AP)—Pedro Pages hit a two-run homer off Logan Gilbert in the eighth inning, helping St. Louis top Seattle.

Jordan Walker was hit by a pitch before Pages connected for his sixth homer, a drive to left-center on a 1-1 slider.

Gilbert (7-11) struck out 10 while throwing a two-hitter for his second career complete game. He threw 101 pitches, 65 for strikes.

## ROYALS 4, TWINS 2

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP)—Bobby Witt Jr. hit a tiebreaking single in a four-run eighth inning, and Kansas City beat Minnesota to open a 1 1/2-game lead over the Twins for the second AL wild card.

Held to one hit over seven innings by Bailey Ober, the Royals rallied against Jhoan Duran (6-9) and Griffin Jax, winning their third straight following a season-high, seven-game losing streak.

Kansas City (78-65) is second behind Cleveland in the AL Central and Minnesota (76-66) is third after losing four of five.

Duran, who topped 100 mph with five of 17 pitches, entered with a 2-0 lead and gave up a one-out single to Freddy Fermin, then hit Robbie Grossman with a pitch. Kyle Isbel hit an RBI single and Jax relieved, trying for a five-out save.

## RED SOX 7, WHITE SOX 5

**BOSTON** (AP)—Tyler O'Neill homered twice for Boston in a win Saturday night that sent the Chicago White Sox to their 111th loss.

Chicago wasted an Andrew Vaughn's two-run homer in the first, trailed 7-2 by the fifth and lost its 19th consecutive series.

The White Sox (32-111) are nine defeats shy of tying the 1962 New York Mets for the most losses since 1900 and are on pace to finish 36-126. The 1899 Cleveland Spiders hold the loss record at 20-134. Chicago has lost 14 of its last 15 games and 44 of 49.

Rob Refsnyder hit an RBI grounder and O'Neill put Boston ahead with a two-run homer in the four-run first off Garrett Crochet (6-11), who dropped to 0-6 in 15 starts since beating Boston on June 7.



# Sabalenka beats Pegula to win her third Grand Slam title



**NEW YORK** (AP)—Aryna Sabalenka left the U.S. Open in tears 12 months ago as the runner-up. She exited in the semifinals each of the two years before that, other losses that were difficult to digest. On Saturday, Sabalenka was in a joking mood after winning her first championship at Flushing Meadows and the third Grand Slam title of her career.

Sabalenka, the No. 2 seed, got past No. 6 Jessica Pegula 7-5, 7-5 in a rollicking final under a closed retractable roof at Arthur Ashe Stadium, displaying her typical power while sprinkling in some variation to add this triumph to those at the Australian Open each of the past two seasons.

"I had a lot of tough lessons here ... especially last year," Sabalenka, a 26-year-old from Belarus, said after grabbing the last two games of the first set and the last four of the match. "In those tough moments (Saturday), I was just trying to stay strong and trying to remind myself that I have been through a lot and I'm strong enough to hold under this pressure."

Sitting near the U.S. Open trophy at her news conference, Sabalenka alluded to "a lot of challenges" away from the court. There was the death of her father in 2019. The death of an ex-boyfriend this March. A right shoulder problem that forced her to withdraw from Wimbledon right before it began this July.

"After I lost my father, it's always been my goal to put our family name in the history of tennis," she said. "Every time I see my name on that trophy, I'm so proud of myself, I'm



Aryna Sabalenka, of Belarus, poses for photos with the championship trophy after defeating Jessica Pegula, of the United States, in the women's singles final of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024, in New York.

proud of my family that they never gave up on my dream and that they were doing everything they could to keep me going."

Also driving her: what she called "all those tough losses in the past here."

That includes semifinal defeats in 2021 against Leylah Fernandez and in 2022 against No. 1 Iga Swiatek.

Most poignant, of course, was last year, when Sabalenka was rattled by the Ashe crowd, blew a set advantage and was defeated by Coco Gauff. Like Gauff, Pegula is an American, but the spectators were far more generous toward Sabalenka this time, applauding her best efforts and even obliging when she waved her arms to ask for extra noise.

After extending her winning streak to 12 matches, Sabalenka thanked the fans for cheering for her — which probably (wink, wink) was unrelated to her kidding offer of "Drinks on me" after an earlier victory.

There were light moments Saturday evening, too. After her coach, Anton Dubrov, was awarded a smaller version of the champion's trophy for his role in her success, Sabalenka teased that its size "actually looks sad" compared to the real thing. She also laughed after pointing out that if both guzzle booze out of their respective trophies, "I'll have a hangover tomorrow, more than you're going to have."

Pegula, a native New Yorker whose parents own the NFL's Buf-

falo Bills and NHL's Buffalo Sabres, was participating in a major final for the first time at age 30. She's won 15 of her past 17 matches over the past month; both losses came against Sabalenka.

"Everyone is like, 'Congrats! Amazing tournament!'" Pegula said. "I'm like, 'Eh, whatever.'"

To Pegula's credit, she did not fold after Sabalenka reeled off five consecutive games to grab the opening set and move ahead 3-0 in the second. In the next game, Pegula dropped a point and showed her frustration by whacking a ball off the video wall behind the baseline, dislodging a little square panel.

Maybe that released some tension, because suddenly Pegula asserted herself, using her own five-game run to go up 5-3. But when she served at 5-4 with a chance to force a third set, Pegula let Sabalenka break.

"She played some big tennis in big moments," Pegula said.

Sabalenka is as demonstrative as anyone, her body language usually a spot-on barometer of whether things are going well. But as she sputtered at the start Saturday, it was tough to read what she was thinking against Pegula, who eliminated Swiatek in the quarterfinals.

Even while down an early break, Sabalenka reacted to mistakes by calmly turning her back and breathing deeply as star athletes from other sports such as Stephen Curry, Lewis Hamilton and Noah Lyles looked on from the stands.

Once Sabalenka calibrated her booming strokes—her forehands were the fastest of the past two weeks, speedier than any woman's or man's—it was apparent the outcome

would be determined by her.

By the close, the statistics made that obvious: Sabalenka finished with far more winners than Pegula, 40-17, and also more unforced errors, 34-22. Sabalenka controlled most exchanges, but also sprinkled in the occasional drop shot or deft volley.

"I was happy I was able to fight back and give myself a chance," Pegula said, "but in the end, it wasn't enough."

There was one moment of clear anger from Sabalenka. It came at 5-all in the first set, when she double-faulted to face a break point, then leaned forward and cracked her racket against the court four times.

Seemed to work. She saved that break point, wound up taking that game, then broke Pegula to own the opening set.

A year ago, Sabalenka blew that sort of lead against Gauff. The year before, Sabalenka did the same against Swiatek.

Didn't let it happen again. "In that second set, honestly, I was just praying there," said Sabalenka, who collected a \$3.6 million winner's check. "I was literally standing there and praying."

## MHS

From page 16

to extend their lead by seven, 10-3, when the Knights found some life in the third inning.

P.J. and Dylan got things started

with two runs, then the Knights tacked on five consecutive runs to knot it all up, 10-10.

Then, MHS added three in the fourth to take the lead by three, 13-10. They held on as the Knights could only get one in the third by Greg, and another run in the last in-

ning by Mykee.

For the supposed second game, Kagman High School forfeited against Saipan International School.

The next game is slated for today at 3pm between MHS and KHS JV.

The teams this season includes

MHS varsity, MHS JV, MCS, KHS varsity, KHS JV, Saipan Southern High School, SSHS JV, Saipan International School, Rota's Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Sr. High School, and Tinnan High School.

The championship rounds are slated for Oct. 10-12.

## ACS

From page 16

and Mount Carmel School came in last at 74 points.

The Lady Geckos topped the high school girls division with 18 points; and the Lady Torchbearers came in second with 24 points, and the Lady Dolphins were third at 44 points.

Cross-country is similar to golf in that the lowest score wins.

Top 3 in the boys division was SIS' Victor Nash Santos who came in at 18 minutes flat; second was Takeru Jim just two seconds behind at 18:02; and third was ACS' Jireh Wang with a time of 18:14.

Top 3 in the girls division was SIS' Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez with a time of 20:56; second was teammate Adalee Taflinger at 22:13; and third was Aubrey White at 25:06.

Santos, who overtook the leader of the pack on the last lap of the three-mile high school course around the CPA Airport Field, said he felt

an adrenaline rush toward the end. "Some of them were cheering for me and it really pushed me," said the recent transfer to SIS from MCS.

The high school junior then said for the next meets, "I just hope to get better. This is just the first race, and everyone will just get better from here."

On SIS' chances of topping the boys division this year, he said, "We'll have to work for it. Like anything, it will be challenging. It's gonna be a challenge between MHS and Agape but we'll just keep trying to get better every single meet."

With his new school and teammates, he said, "It's a very nice environment and they're very supportive. They push me to get better and the coaches are very supportive too. It's just a really good support system and they really try to help you be the best that you can."

Dr. Ron Snyder, SIS headmaster and coach and meet director said after the first meet, "It is nice to see the sport developing."

The next qualifier is Saturday,



18U high school boys division first place Saipan International School's Victor Nash Santos runs into the finish line of the first PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2024-2025 qualifier at the CPA Airport Field last Saturday.

Sept. 14, hosted by Run Saipan at the American Memorial Park; the SIS Gecko 5000 at Banzai Cliff is on Sept. 28; the ISA Invitational with the location to be determined is on Oct. 5; and the championship is set

for Oct. 12 at the Saipan Country Club at Saipan Vegas.

Results of the 14U middle school and 9U and 12U elementary school divisions will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	82	60	.577	—
Baltimore	82	61	.573	½
Boston	72	70	.507	10
Tampa Bay	70	72	.493	12
Toronto	68	75	.476	14½
Central Division				
Cleveland	81	61	.570	—
Kansas City	78	65	.545	3½
Minnesota	76	66	.535	5
Detroit	72	71	.503	9½
Chicago	32	111	.224	49½
West Division				
Houston	77	65	.542	—
Seattle	72	71	.503	5½
Texas	69	74	.483	8½
Oakland	62	81	.434	15½
Los Angeles	59	83	.415	18
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Philadelphia	85	57	.599	—
New York	78	64	.549	7
Atlanta	77	65	.542	8
Washington	64	78	.451	21
Miami	53	89	.373	32
Central Division				
Milwaukee	82	60	.577	—
Chicago	72	70	.507	10
St. Louis	72	70	.507	10
Cincinnati	68	75	.476	14½
Pittsburgh	66	76	.465	16
West Division				
Los Angeles	85	57	.599	—
San Diego	81	63	.563	5
Arizona	79	64	.552	6½
San Francisco	70	73	.490	15½
Colorado	53	90	.371	32½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





**Chiefs hold off Ravens when review overturns TD on final play of season opener**  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## ACS, SIS tops 1st x-country meet



18U high school cross country runners run out of the starting line of the three-mile course in the first PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2024-2025 qualifier at the CPA Airport Field last Saturday.

By **LEIGH GASES**  
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REPORTER

**I**t didn't feel like typhoon season in the CNMI as the sun shone on a rare, bright Saipan morning.

The morning dew, cones on an open field, and children running signaled the start of the cross-country season as school children took on the first PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 qualifier at the CPA Airport Field last Saturday.



Dripping with sweat and with sun-kissed skins, Agape Christian School Torchbearers and Saipan International School Lady Geckos topped the 18U high school divisions.

In the boys division, the Torchbearers accumulated 21 points, while Marianas High School scored 32. Third was SIS at 34

**See ACS on Page 15**



LEIGH GASES

LEIGH GASES

18U high school girls division first place Saipan International School's Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez runs the final lap of the first PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2024-2025 qualifier at the CPA Airport Field last Saturday.

## Cards advance to finals after semis cliff-hanger vs. Falcons, 7-4

By **LEIGH GASES**  
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REPORTER

The prolonged 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League baseball season is finally closing out as the long-awaited semis between defending champions Cardinals and the top seed Falcons wrapped up last Friday in a cliff-hanger at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The game initially started last Wednesday, but was rained out and ended at the bottom of the sixth inning with a tied 4-4 ballgame. Then, it

continued last Friday with the Cardinals coming out on top on a last-minute rally in the eighth inning to win, 7-4.

It was a heated game throughout—one that even the rain couldn't extinguish—as both teams gave it their all for a spot in the finals. Words were exchanged, and it became a cat-and-mouse game as both teams tried to get into the other's mind and gain the upper hand.

When the game got started again, the tide changed as the Falcons failed to produce in the seventh and eighth inning.



LEIGH GASES

Cardinals third baseman T.J. Sablan pumps to throw the ball to first base after a Falcons grounder during their semis game last Wednesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Cardinals' bottom of the order then led things off as Brian Camacho got on base in the eighth. He scored a run to make it 5-4.

Then, the Cardinals took their momentum into overdrive as the top of the order got on base which they translated into more runs. Nokki Saralu and Eli Aughenbaugh scored to give them a three-run cushion, 7-4.

In the last hurrah, the Cardinals went down in order, but the Falcons went down in order as well as Cardinals ace K.J. Villagomez took them all the way home and secured the

win to give them a chance to defend their title.

The Cardinals' Nate Camacho collected the most RBIs with five and had three hits out of four at-bats, while Saralu went two-for-five and scored two runs, and Aughenbaugh scored two runs and hit the game's only double.

In the single-elimination playoffs last Thursday, the Bandits shot down Sandlot, 7-1, to advance to the semis against the Padres.

Tomorrow, if the weather allows it, the Padres and Bandits will duke it out for the last finals spot.



LEIGH GASES

Falcons shortstop seems to apply the tag on a Cardinals baserunner running to second base, but it was called safe during their semis game last Wednesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

## MHS wins fast pitch opener, 13-11



LEIGH GASES

A Marianas High School fast pitch softball varsity players speeds to home plate as head coach Jared Ayuyu signals for another runner to go in the background during their opener against Mount Carmel School in the Inaugural SBL-PSS Interscholastic Boys High School Fast Pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Dandan Softball Field.

By **LEIGH GASES**  
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REPORTER

Marianas High School Dolphins varsity fast-pitch softball team won the opener of the Inaugural PSS-NMI Softball Association Interscholastic Boys High School Fast Pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Dandan Softball Field.

It was a thrilling opening matchup as the Dolphins took on the Mount Carmel School Knights and won in a

close, 13-11 game.

The Dolphins jumped right in and quickly scored eight runs from Jequin, Ramon, Herbit, Jason, Joel, Hunter, and Jake at the top of the first inning for a huge lead, 8-0. The Knights then answered with three runs from Greg, Minsoo, and Brandon for a 3-8 game.

Organizers didn't provide last names for the players.

MHS then added one each in the second and third

**See MHS on Page 15**